

WARREN  
MAGAZINE



SPIRIT  
#12

FEB. 1976

THE

# SPIRIT

By

Will  
EISNER

59296-5  
PDC

\$1.25



## The Christmas Spirit

NINE  
CLASSICS  
OF ADVENTURE!





CARRION

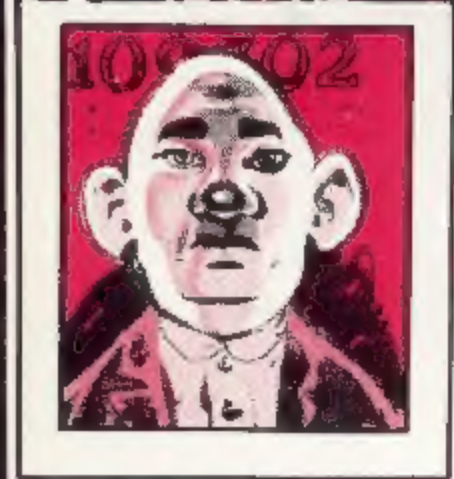


# THE SPIRIT

FORTY COMPOTE



BIG ARKY



the CHRISTMAS Spirit



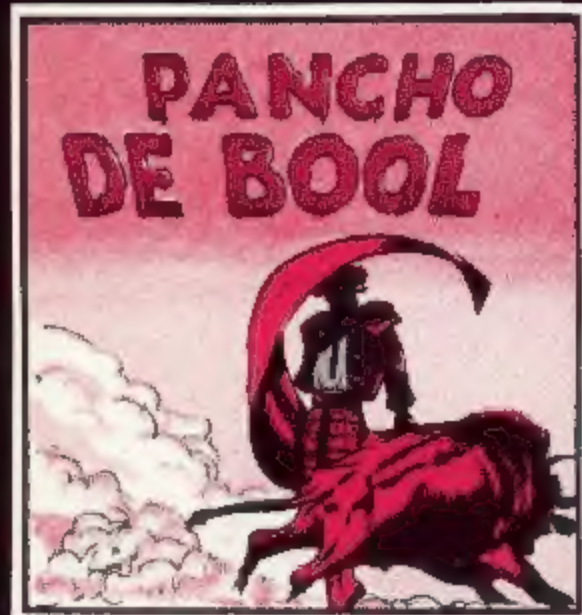
SNOW



the JEWEL



PANCHO DE BOOL



R-E-S-C-U-E



The Christmas SPIRIT

a fable

BUT, SPIRIT!  
IT'S THE GOOLY  
BROTHERS ON A  
TEAR—THEY'VE  
BEEN ROBBING  
EVERY STORE  
IN CENTRAL  
CITY!







**OUR COVER**  
Christmas Greetings from the Christmas SPIRIT. A special yuletide cover montage brought to you by the incredible talents of Will Eisner with color by Bill DuBay!

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THE SPIRIT NO. 12, PUBLISHED SIX TIMES A YEAR, IN FEBRUARY, APRIL, JUNE, AUGUST, OCTOBER & DECEMBER BY WARREN PUBLISHING CO. EDITORIAL, SUBSCRIPTION AND BUSINESS OFFICES AT 145 EAST 32nd STREET, N.Y. 10016. TELEPHONE: (212) 687-6050.

SUBSCRIPTIONS: SIX ISSUES FOR \$7.50 IN THE U.S.; CANADA AND ELSEWHERE \$9.50.

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# SPIRIT

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**ISSUE NO. 12**  
**FEBRUARY 1976**

### 4 THE SPIRIT'S DEAD LETTERS

Reader opinions differ on many matters. Ebony. Outside artists. Favorite tales. But all agree that Will Eisner is tops!

### 5 THE JEWEL Sand Seref. Colonel Ark. Carrion and Julia. THE SPIRIT. They were on the same boat with the same goal... possession of the fabulous jewel of Gizah!

### 12 CARRION Sand's gun made her boss of the island's motley shipwrecked crew. But when Ark died from a gun shot wound, it also made her prime suspect in his murder!

### 19 RESCUE Archie Flye... one of the many who want the Gizah jewel. Sand Seref and THE SPIRIT are real fighters. But are they a match for Flye's eight armed thugs?

### 26 PANCHO DE BOOL Pepin had been a bull fighter in Mexico. Now he was a pro-boxer in Central City. He'd do anything to return to his home. Including murder!

### 33 THE CHRISTMAS SPIRIT Santa brought Basher Bains a present in his cell in State Prison. It was freedom. How Basher used this gift was entirely up to him!

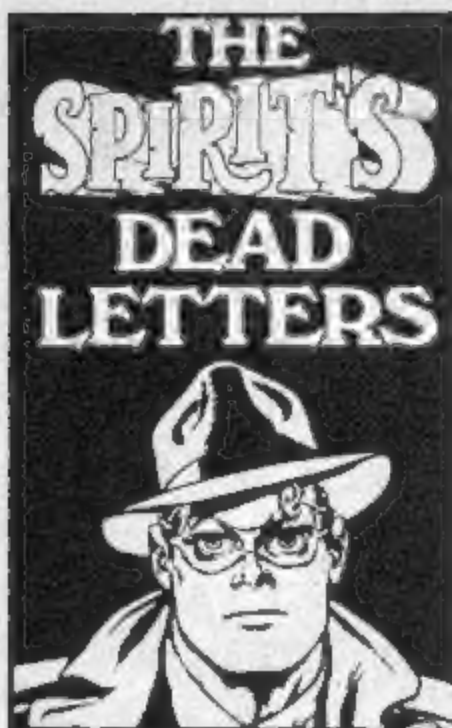
### 41 SNOW Goldbrick is receiving stolen diamonds. Dolan is sure of that. But how can a fence so dumb he buys ice in winter be smart enough to dispose of hot jewels?

### 49 TOOTY COMPOTE He was everybody's doormat. Ignored. Stepped on. Until the day Tooty ordered a tormentor to drop dead. To his surprise, the man obliged!

### 57 BIG ARKY He'd promised her the good life, if only she would marry him. A worthless pledge. Enraged, Mona taunted him. Goaded him to commit the perfect crime!

### 65 FABLE: CHRISTMAS SPIRIT The Octopus is about to plunge the world into a terrible third war. Only one man can stop him. Santa...the Xmas SPIRIT





Whatever a father and son can share with each other encourages the growth of a small avenue of communication.

Your SPIRIT reprints are, for my ten and four-year old sons and me, such an avenue. In fact, the shared enjoyment is causing the avenues to be widened for more efficient traffic flow!

Thank you for providing, in the context of what Marshall McLuhan calls a linear media, a unique kind of non-linear paradigm.

Against your magic, the Saturday morning animated experiences suffer, as well they should, by comparison.

In short, my sons and I like THE SPIRIT very much.

**PAUL J. VELLANI  
ERIC VELLANI  
Fultonham, N.Y.**

Impact! That's the word for THE SPIRIT #10! That issue was worth its weight in gold!

Outstanding sagas were "THE SPIRIT Origin," "Sound" and "The Octopus is Back!" And I almost died laughing at "Hobart." And...well, guess what? They were all great!

**MIKE TROTMAN  
Somerset, N.J.**

The stories in SPIRIT #10 were great, though the cover wasn't one of Ken Kelley and Will Eisner's best!

Still, there's no point in focusing on the negative aspects of the magazine when the issue was otherwise so completely, positively great!

I was delighted to read the "Origin of the Spirit!" What a fine color tale! And the addition of two super two-color stories made THE SPIRIT #10 complete success!

I'm looking forward to that super special Christmas issue we've been promised!

**DAVID MALL  
Manhattan, N.Y.**



And here it is, David. Merry Christmas. We hope you like it!

I was first introduced to THE SPIRIT by a French comic weekly called Tintin. Each issue featured a complete, translated SPIRIT adventure... in full color! The effect was dazzling!

And then came the fabulous, brilliant Warren magazine!

The SPIRIT is an original breed of hero. Behind his creation is the sure hand of a comic genius.

I had read about Will Eisner's cinematographic placement of his characters. But I never imagined that pen and paper alone could create such a remarkable excitement.

Eisner's special ability to incorporate the scenes of everyday life into THE SPIRIT's adventures lends the character believability.

It is only one of many things that makes THE SPIRIT exceptionally great reading!

**RAY KHURI  
Beirut, Lebanon**

Twenty five or thirty years after its inception, THE SPIRIT still ranks as one of the finest comic book characters ever created.

That fabulous hero who takes his job... if not himself... quite seriously was a fore-runner in attitude of some of the costumed heroes in vogue today.

Will Eisner's wit and talent has created a hero who, though conceived thirty years ago, seems completely "with it" today.

He's a compassionate, quick tempered, completely decent fellow who by extraordinary luck and skill manages to survive the many numerous, ordinarily lethal adventures.

The Octopus alone would be more than a match for a more ordinary man.

But Will Eisner's creation is THE SPIRIT. And he's not the slightest bit ordinary!

**RICHARD MAY  
Brooklyn, N.Y.**



THE SPIRIT #10 was one of the best SPIRIT issues ever! Reader favorites varied from "Heat/Quiet" to "The Octopus is Back" to "The Origin of THE SPIRIT." Each had its fans!

## ENVY THE SPIRIT!

His days are filled with crime fighting. His nights with romance. But every now and then he needs a stiff dose of reality. Let him have it! Write THE SPIRIT!

**THE SPIRIT'S DEAD LETTERS**  
c/o Warren Publishing Co.  
145 East 32nd Street  
New York, New York 10016



SPIRIT #10 was the best issue of THE SPIRIT yet!

Fabulous tales like "The Octopus is Back" and "Heat/Quiet" gave me hours of fine reading.

Will Eisner never ceases to amaze me. He is one of the finest talents comics has produced ever.

Work like THE SPIRIT has begun to make people the world over sit up and take notice. Many have begun to accept comics as one of the great American art forms!

Yarn-spinning has always been one of the great, traditional Yankee pastimes.

And Eisner's tales are fine examples of the way stories should be told! Complete with pictures!

Three cheers for Eisner's tall tales!

Keep 'em comin', Will!

**GREG SAWYER  
Greenwich, Conn.**

THE SPIRIT is the finest black and white comic magazine available today!

The sophistication of Will Eisner's concept and execution has resulted in stories and characters that are essentially timeless.

From the largest to the smallest personality, they shine with a brilliance of understanding that is Will Eisner's alone.

The sequential tales of THE SPIRIT #10, "Heat" and "Quiet" are perfect examples of Eisner's richness of characterization and attention to detail.

The former story, particularly, uses the truly believable, everyday, garden-variety heatwave, like the one we had last summer, to set the scene for a remarkable every day tale of attempted murder.

Eisner has assembled a cast of typical dwellers... who are anything but cardboard cutout characters.

Their reactions are human, predictable, ordinary. Their lives are hum-drum. Yet from these tools, Eisner has managed to create one of the most gripping SPIRIT tales I have ever read.

The Octopus has wounded the SPIRIT badly. Our hero is dying. And everyone in Central City is so caught up in their own, everyday concerns (with the added burden of trying to get some relief from the incredible heat) that no one notices. THE SPIRIT, weakened from loss of blood, is simply unable to get anyone's attention.

When Eisner finally allows a rescue, I, for one, breathed a gigantic sigh of relief.

"Heat" was certainly touch and go for THE SPIRIT. And it was the finest, most gripping Eisner tale I have ever read!

THE SPIRIT is fabulous.

**JASON GREEN  
Baltimore, Md.**



# THE JEWEL

## the SPIRIT

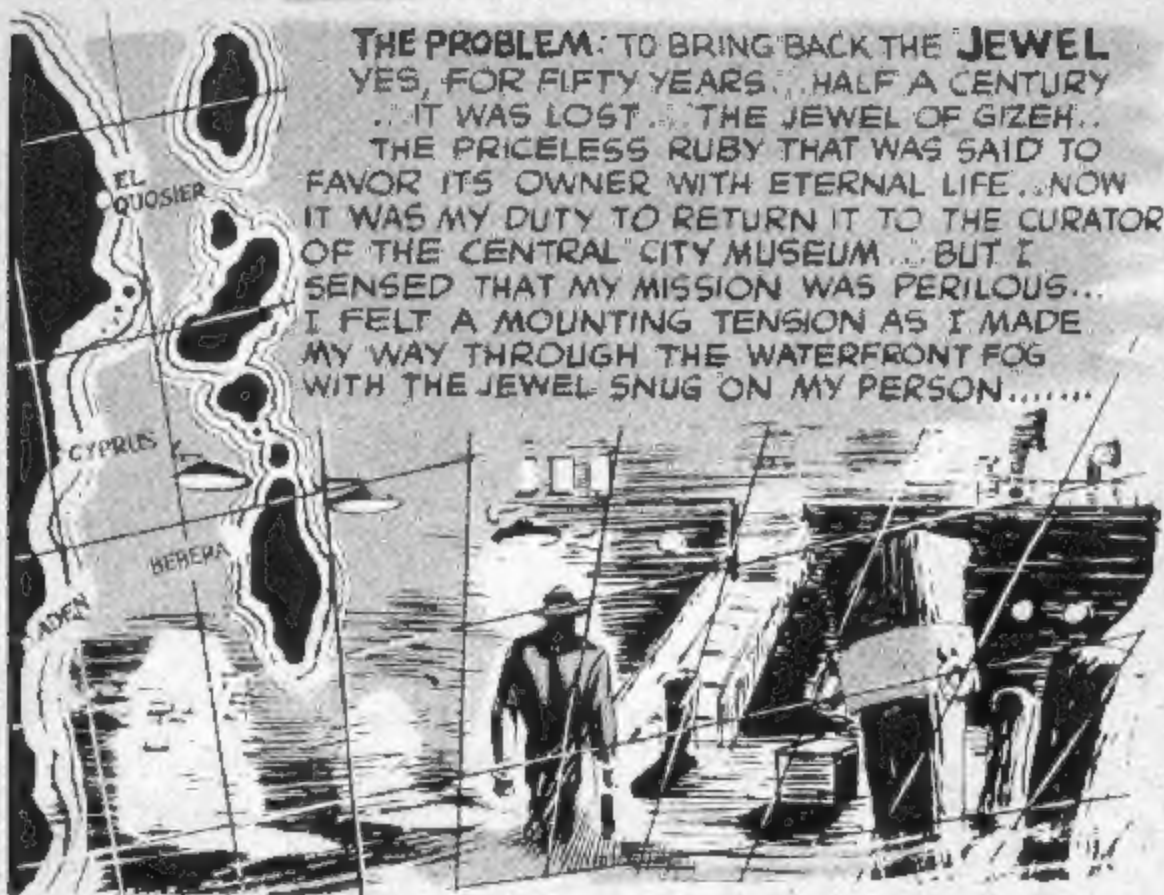
BY WILL EISNER

$$\sqrt{\frac{3}{\text{THIEVES}} + \frac{1}{\text{TREASURE}} + \frac{1}{\text{GREED}}} = \text{DEATH}$$

IN THE ALGEBRA OF CRIME THERE IS  
NO MORE DEADLY EQUATION THAN THIS









...FOUR DAYS OUT OF EL QUOSIER...  
FOUR DAYS OF CONSTANT RAIN... THE  
FOG HAD LIFTED TO A LIGHT MIST AND  
ALL THIS TIME I HAD KEPT TO MY CABIN...



SOMETIMES... THROUGH THE  
PAPER-THIN WALLS I COULD  
HEAR THE VOICES OF MY  
FELLOW PASSENGERS...



TWO PEOPLE... MAN AND  
WOMAN... AND SHE  
SOUNDS FAMILIAR... MAYBE  
MY LAYING LOW WAS WISER  
THAN I THOUGHT...



THE FOLLOWING NIGHT I LEFT MY CABIN  
FOR THE FIRST TIME...



ON THE CONTRARY... MY PORTHOLE  
FACES OUT IN **THIS** DIRECTION.  
EVERY NIGHT I CAN LOOK OUT AND  
SEE THE MOON... **HEY!**



THE MOON... WE SHOULD  
BE FACING THE **MOON!**  
**WE'VE CHANGED**  
**COURSE!**

BETTER GO BACK  
TO YER CABIN..  
THE DECK IS PRETTY  
SLIPPERY FROM THE  
RAIN... Y'MIGHT FALL  
OVERBOARD



I GOT TO THE CABIN AND TURNED ON THE  
LIGHTS...











CAPTAIN SKROOB...ARREST THESE MEN. THEY TRIED TO KILL THE SPIRIT!

HMMM... ON DECK-ALL OF YOU!



THEY'RE BOTH CRIMINALS.... WANTED IN EL QUOSIER...THERE'S PROBABLY A REWARD!

I'LL WAGER YOUR HEAD PROBABLY HAS A NICE PRICE ON IT AS WELL!



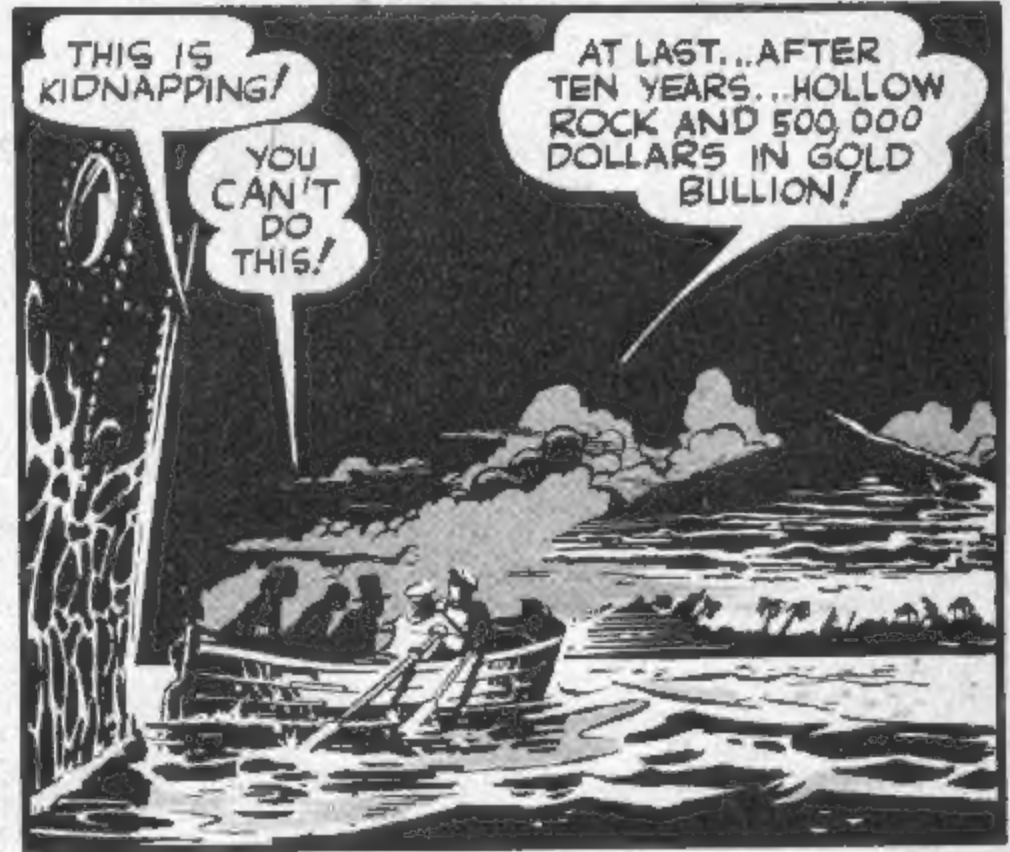
LISTEN TO ME...WAIT A MINUTE.. **LAND!** WE'VE DOCKED!

LAND IT IS... AND DOCKED WE HAVE... LOWER THE DINGHY!



WHAT IS THE MEANING OF THIS? THERE IS NO SCHEDULED PORT FOR 200 MILES!

**SHUT UP!** DRAG THE UNCONSCIOUS LUBBER INTO THE BOAT!



THIS IS KIDNAPPING!

YOU CAN'T DO THIS!

AT LAST...AFTER TEN YEARS...HOLLOW ROCK AND 500,000 DOLLARS IN GOLD BULLION!



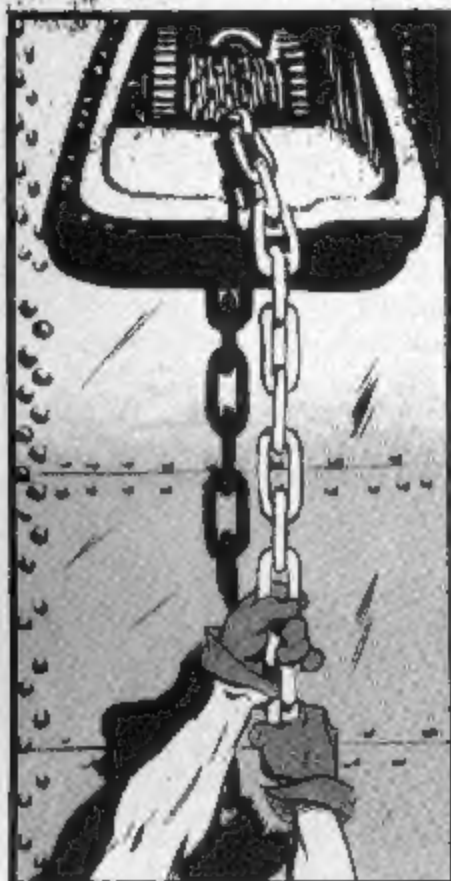
LOOKIT THIS BOOTY...I TOLD 'EM THE SHIP BURNED AND THE GOLD SUNK T' TH' BOTTOM! THAT WAS IN 1940...AN' NOW I'VE GOT THE GOLD...ALL T'MESELF!



WHAT ABOUT US?...JUST WHY DID YOU BOOK PASSENGERS... FOR A VOYAGE LIKE THIS!??

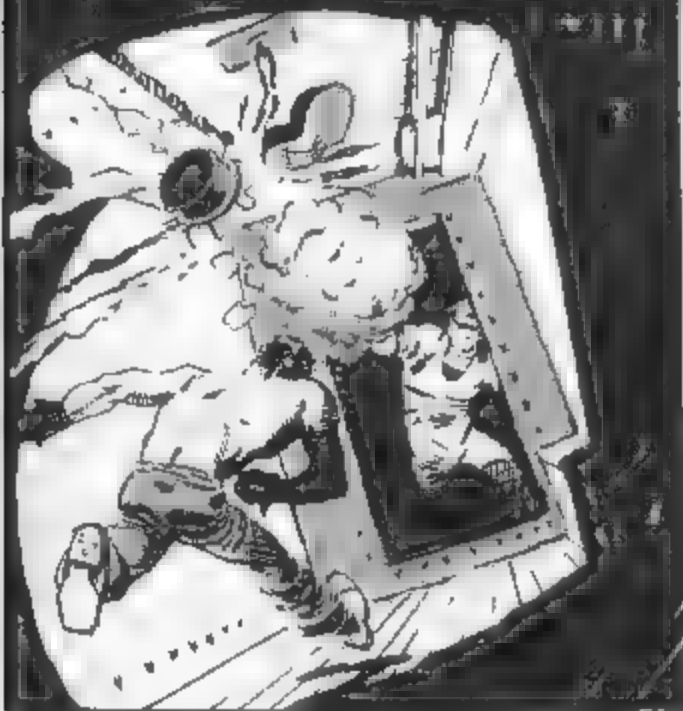
CAPTAIN SKROOB AIN'T ONE T'TURN DOWN EXTRA CASH...BESIDES IT WOULD'VE LOOKED SUSPICIOUS LEAVIN' THE HARBOR EMPTY.. NOW DON'T FRET FOLKS.. WE AIN'T GONNA DO YOU NO HARM...WE'RE JES' GONNA LEAVE YA PEACEFUL ON THIS ISLE... Y'C'N WAIT FER THE NEXT SHIP... IF ONE EVER COMES... HA HA! HAW! HAW! HAW!







SKROOB DUCKED INTO THE  
HOLD FIRING SHOTS AT ME  
AS I FOLLOWED



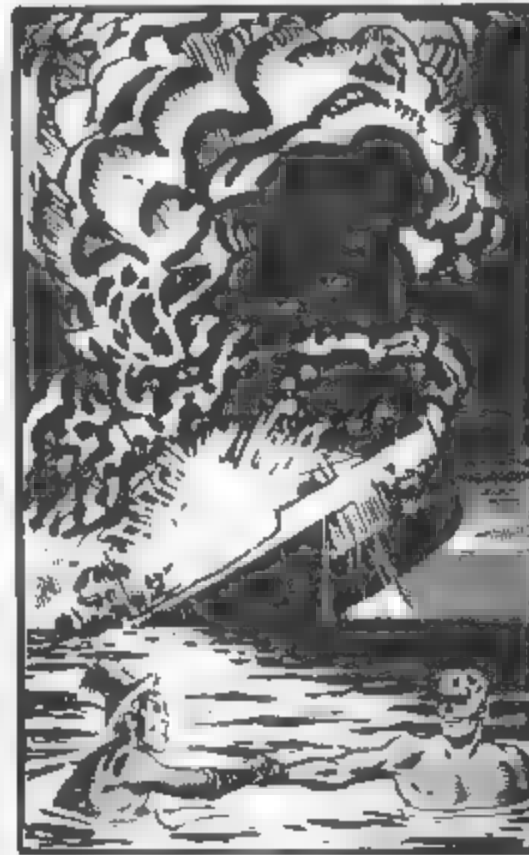
...AND THEN...IN THE NEXT  
FIVE SECONDS EVERYTHING  
HAPPENED...



LOOK OUT...  
THE LAMP!



SPIRIT...SPIRIT...WHERE  
ARE YOU?... THE  
SHIP IS ON FIRE!



THERE IT GOES...THE  
"ISLAND QUEEN"  
AND ITS CARGO OF  
GOLD!



THERE GOES OUR  
PASSAGE HOME...  
THIS ISLAND  
IS OFF THE REGULAR  
SHIPPING LANES, SO...  
IT LOOKS LIKE WE'RE  
GOING TO BE  
HERE FOR SOME TIME  
WAITING FOR A "HITCH"!



THAT WHOLE SHIP AND ITS  
CREW ..DESTROYED.. CAP'N SKROOB  
NEVER KNEW THAT THE FAKE FIRE  
REPORT HE FILED WOULD COME  
TRUE ..TEN YEARS LATER!





# CARRION

DATeline: MARCH 26..AB'D THAMP STEAMER "ISLAND QUEEN":

LEFT RED SEA ISLAND PORT OF ELQUOSIER •A.M. 13/19/50

DESTINATION ••CENTRAL CITY, USA

....MISSING.... BELIEVED TO HAVE FOUNDERED OR OFF COURSE

PASSENGER LIST FILED WITH EAST AFRICAN AUTHORITIES

LISTS ONLY THREE..SAND SARET, COLONEL ARK, MR. CARRION...

PORT WORKER REVEALED TODAY THAT HE SAW MASKED MAN

EMBARK SAME VESSEL...BELIEVED TO BE THE SPIRIT

Indian  
Ocean

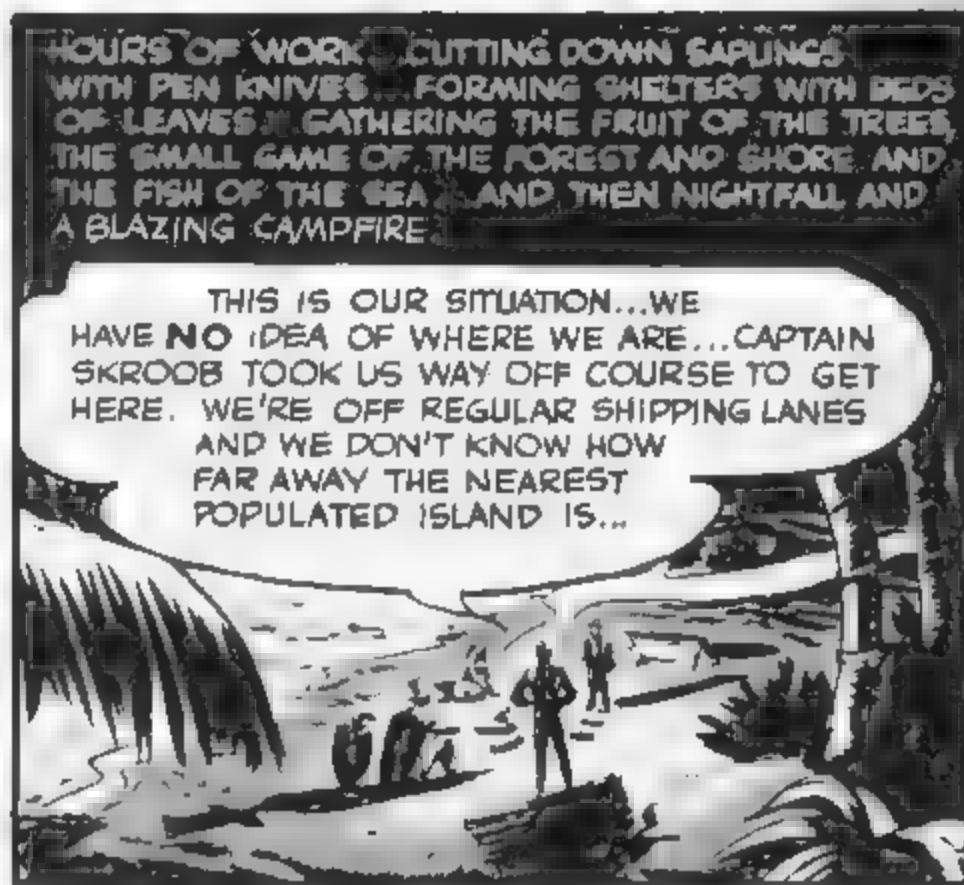
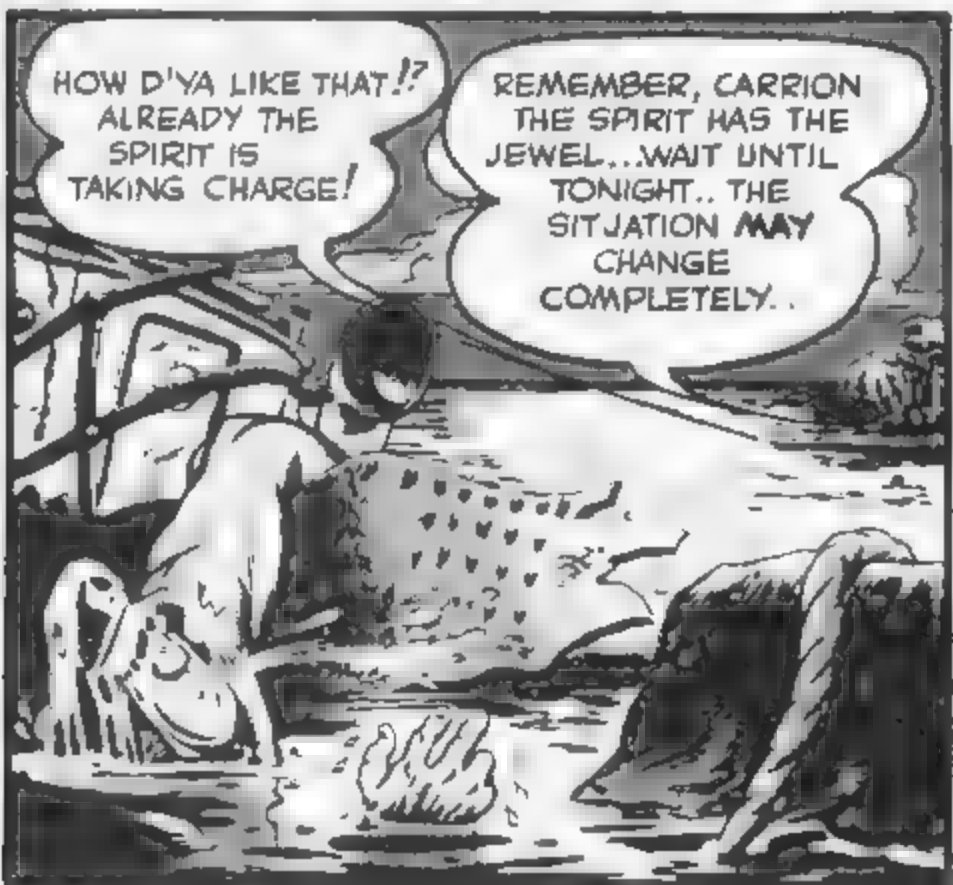
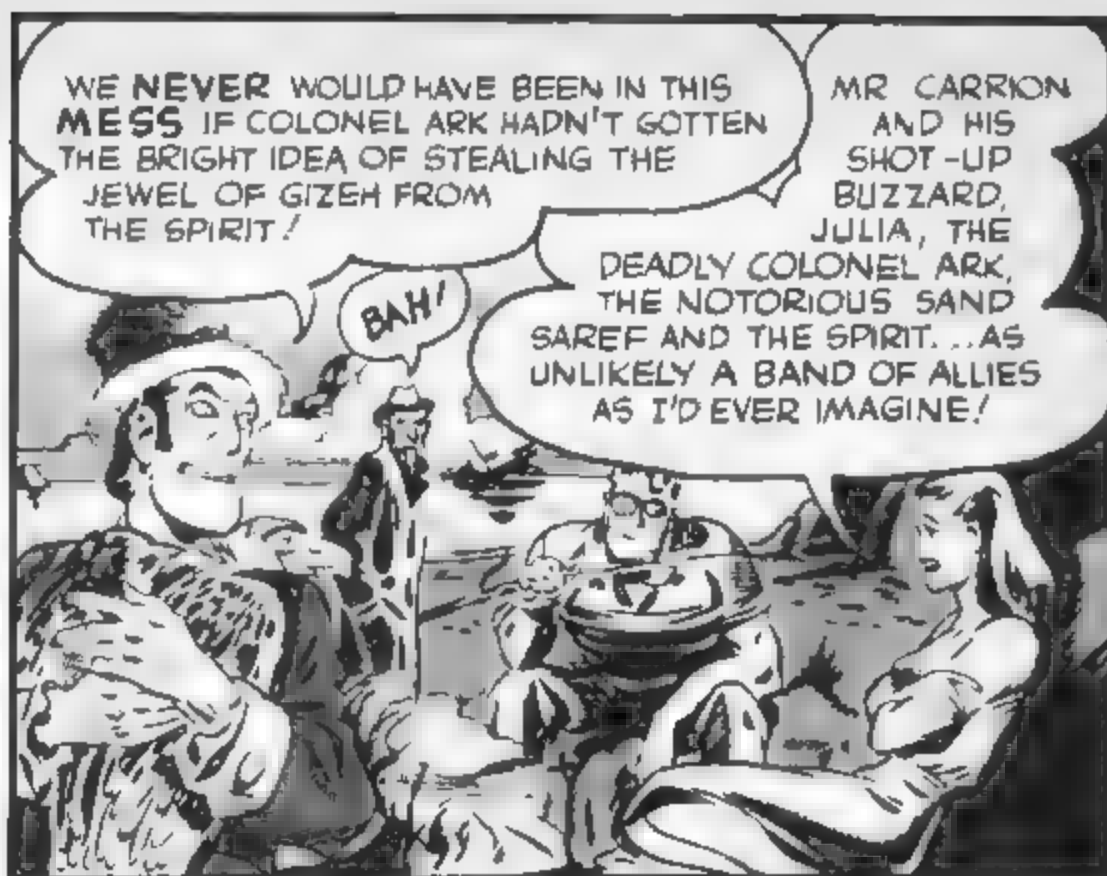
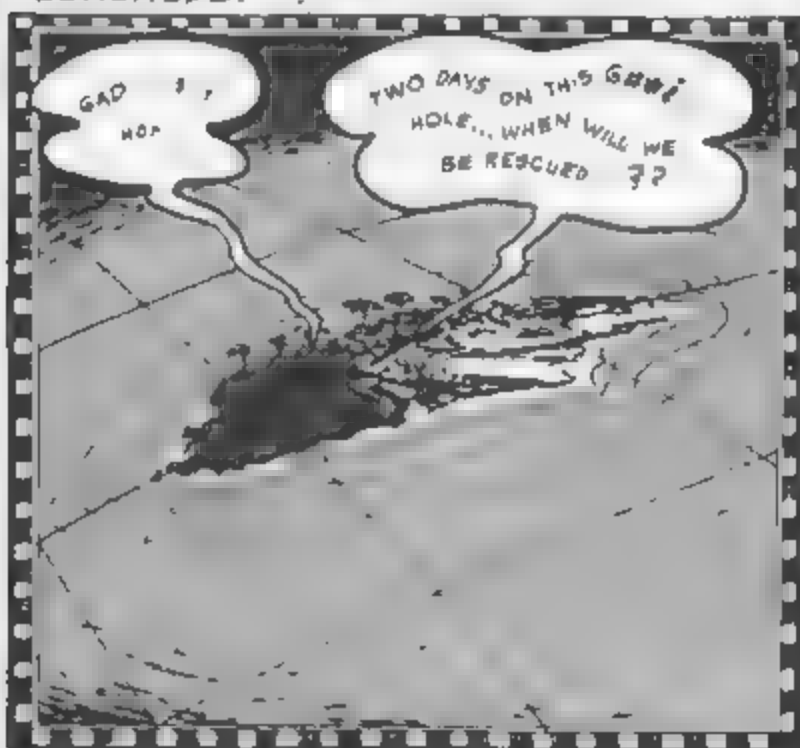
Fort Dauphin

THE  
SPIRIT

Will  
EISNER



NOON... AT AN UNKNOWN LATITUDE  
INTERSECTED BY AN UNKNOWN  
LONGITUDE.







DON'T TELL ME THE GREAT SPIRIT CAN'T SIGHT OUR POSITION BY THE STARS!?

I HATE TO ADMIT IT, CARRION, BUT I'M JUST A CITY BOY!



WHEN AND IF ANY PLANES OR SHIPS APPEAR, WE'RE READY FOR THEM UNTIL THEN WE'LL HAVE TO WORK TOGETHER AND RUN A NICE LITTLE COMMUNITY RIGHT HERE!

WITH YOU MAYOR BY SELF APPOINTMENT, EH, SPIRIT?



LOOK HERE CARRION, RIGHT NOW LET'S BE PALS...BUT WHEN WE GET BACK TO CIVILIZATION, REMIND ME TO...



ENOUGH OF THAT!

**SAND!**

SHE'S GOT A GUN!

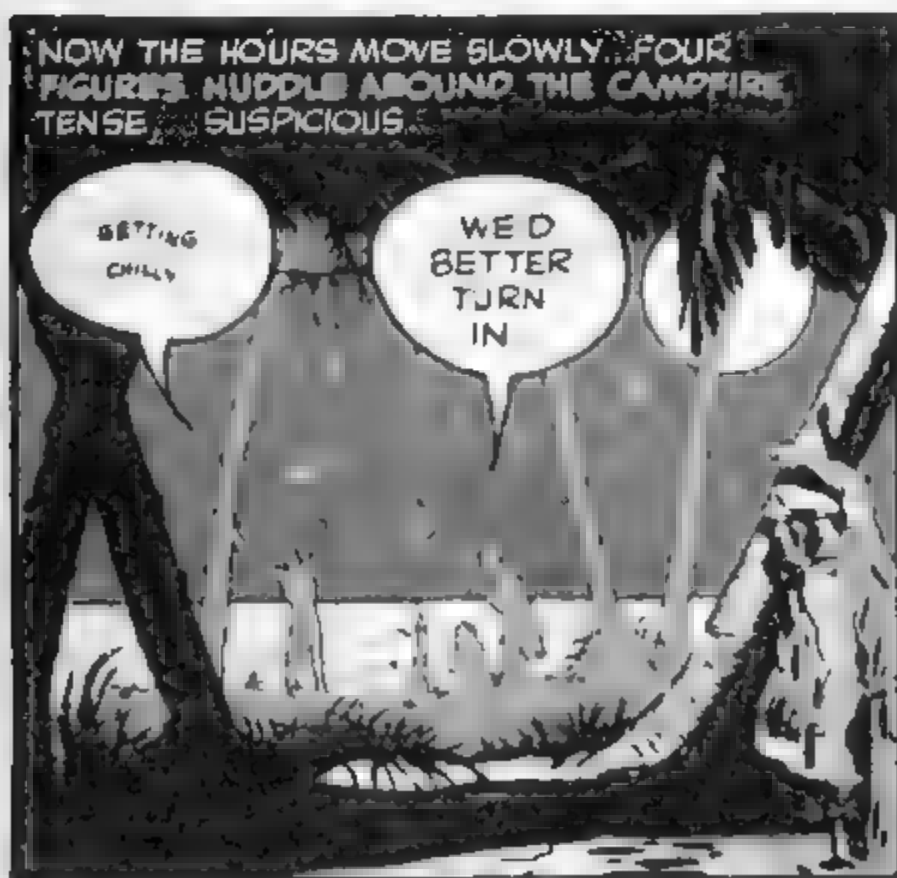


THE ONLY GUN ON THE ISLAND AND IT'S MINE! I THINK THAT SETTLES THE PROBLEM OF WHO'S RUNNING THINGS! NOW SIT DOWN ALL OF YOU AND FINISH EATING!



I THOUGHT YOU WERE ACTING AWFULLY QUIET...I HAD HOPED..

ALWAYS HOPING, AREN'T YOU, SPIRIT? WON'T YOU EVER LEARN?!



NOW THE HOURS MOVE SLOWLY...FOUR FIGURES Huddle AROUND THE CAMPFIRE...TENSE...SUSPICIOUS...

SETTING CHILLY

WE'D BETTER TURN IN



NIGHT

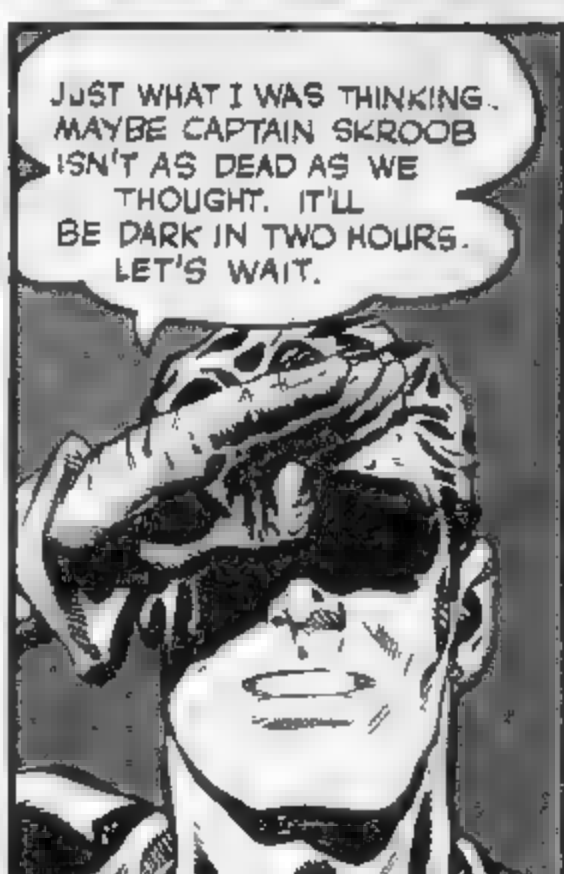
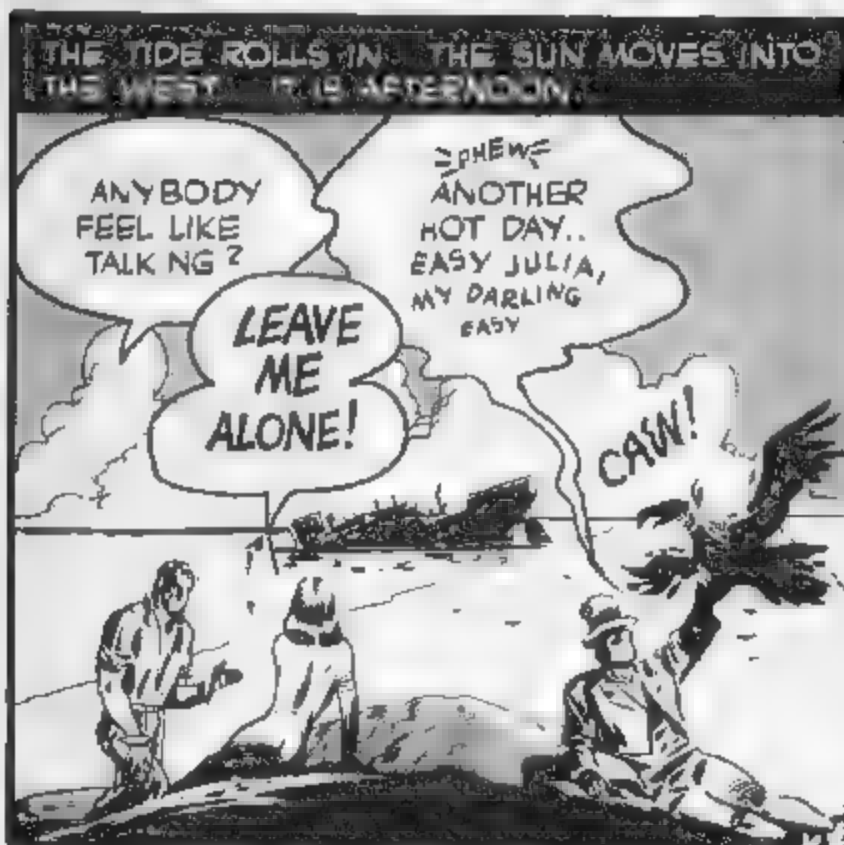
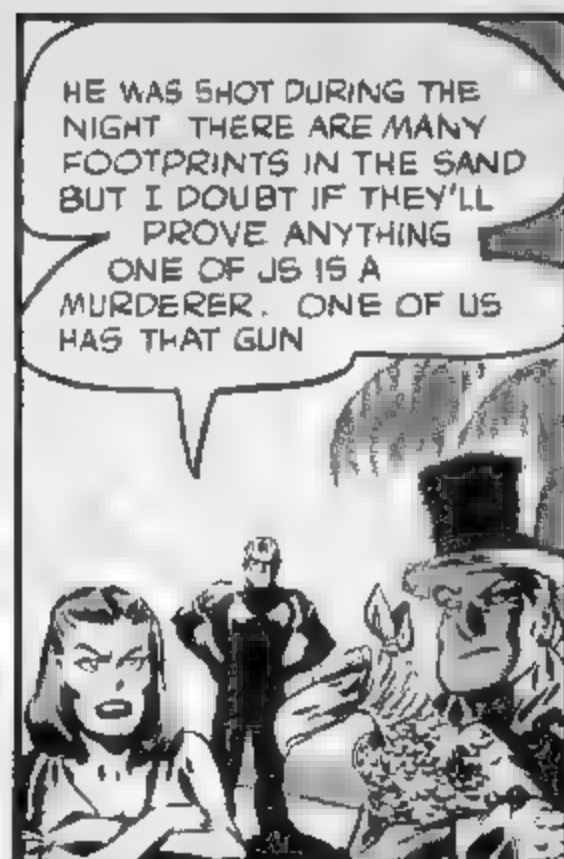
GOOD NIGHT

GOOD NIGHT

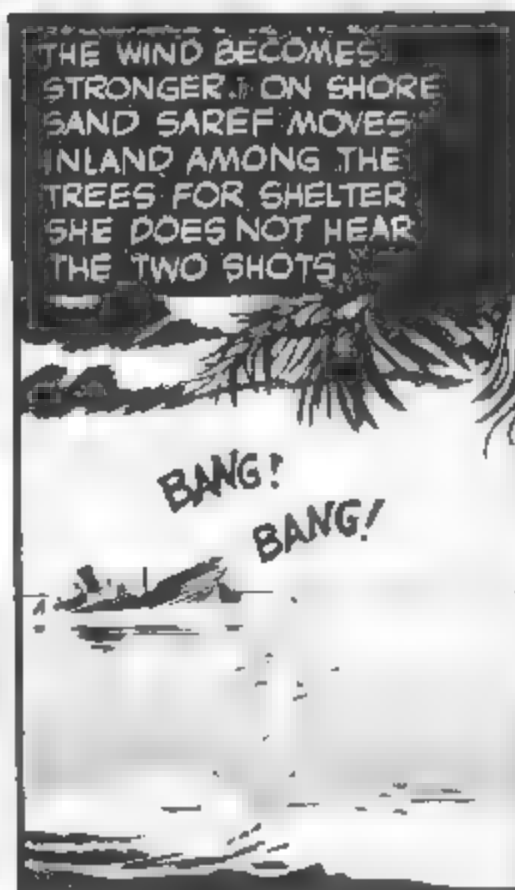
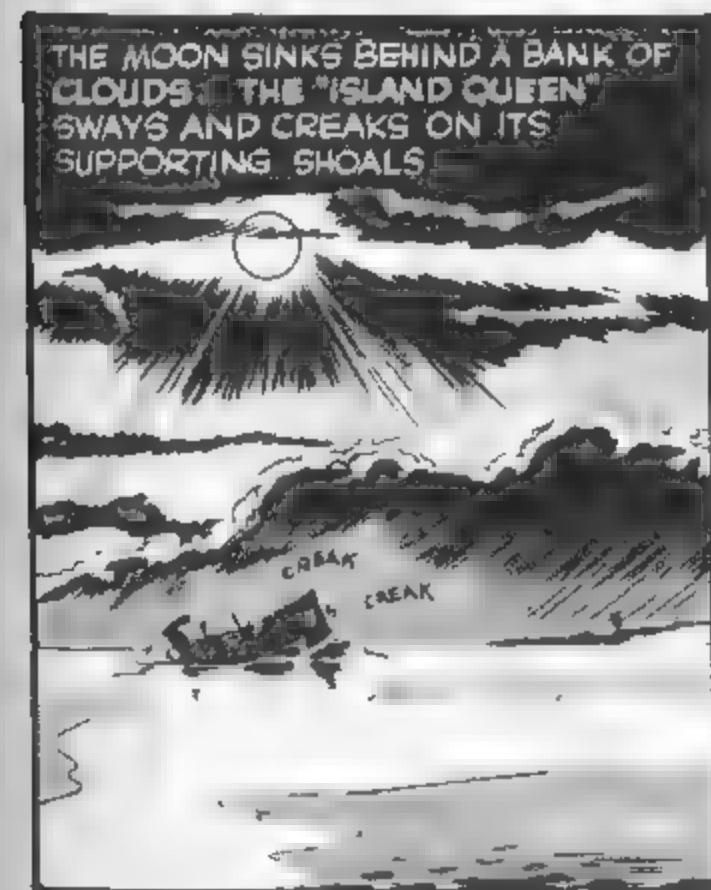
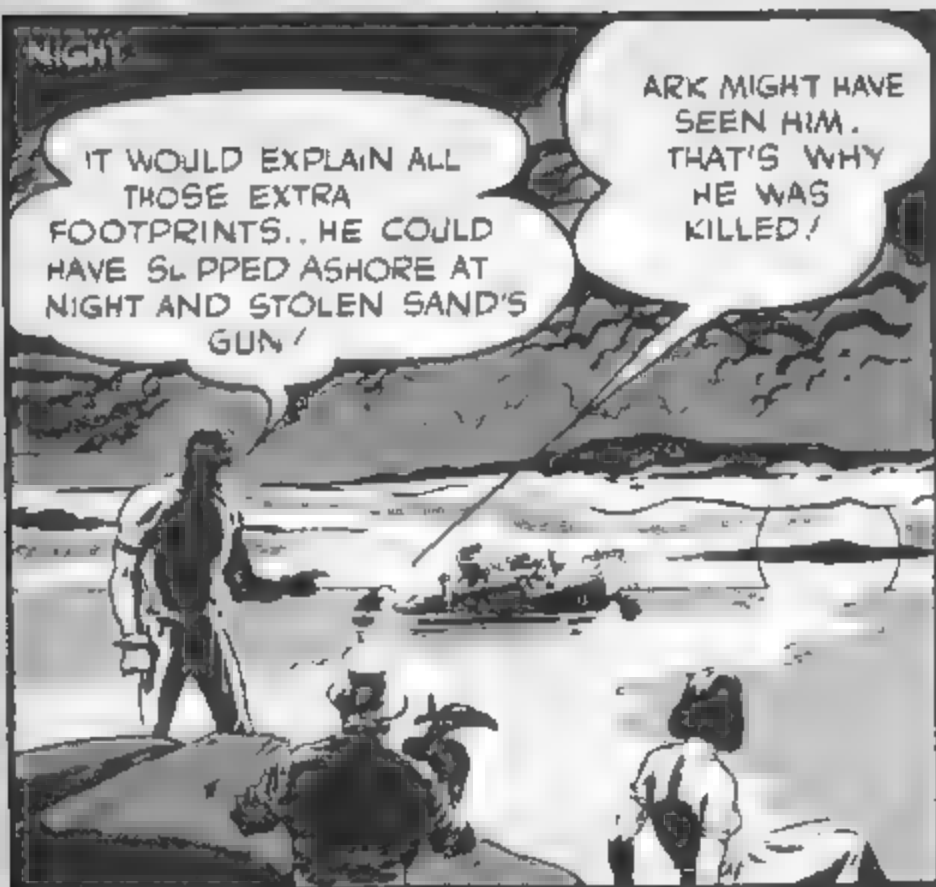



















THE  
SPIRIT  
BY  
Will  
EISNER

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THERE'S A  
MARX KAUFMAN  
ON THE LONG  
DISTANCE WIRE,  
COMMISSIONER...  
TAKE IT ON  
LINE #2.

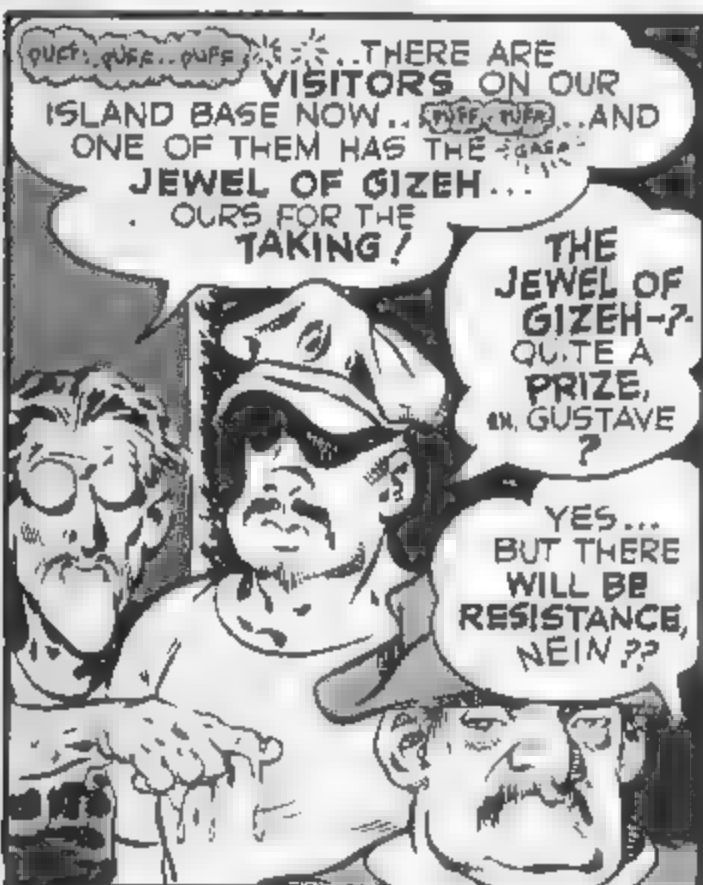
HELLO! YEH..THIS IS DOLAN...Y'HEARD FROM WHO?...THE SPIRIT ---WHERE IS HE?...THANKS A MILLION!!



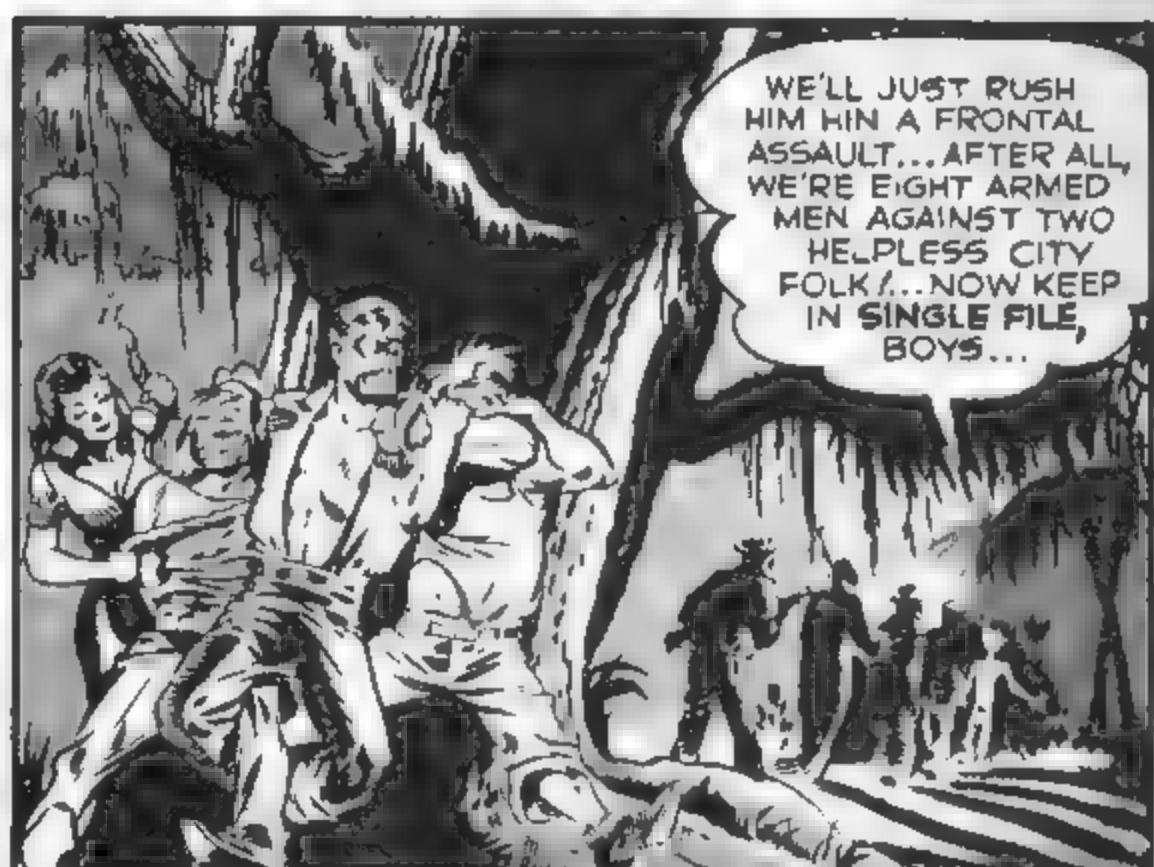
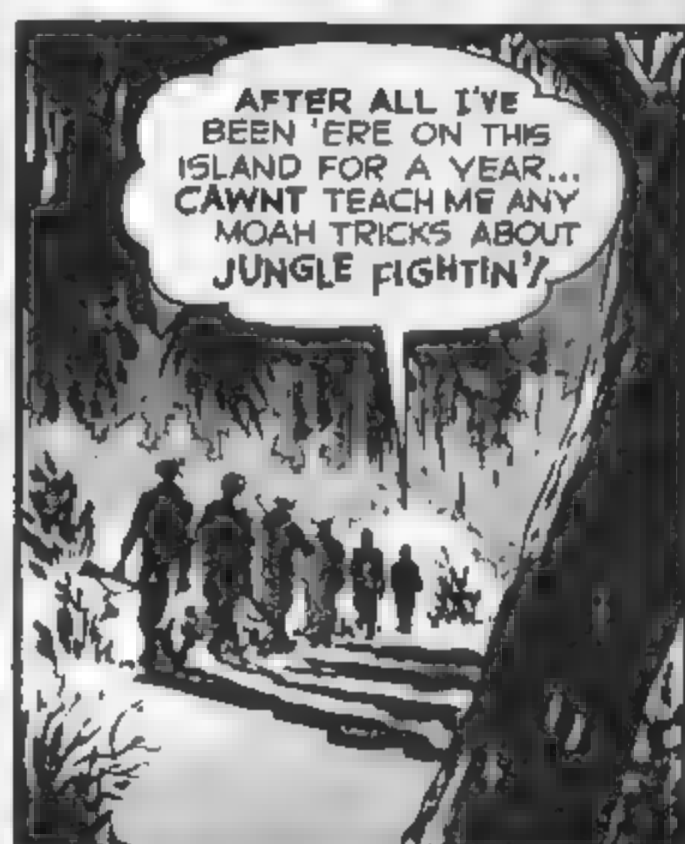
THE SPIRIT WAS  
MAROONED ON AN  
ISLAND WITH SAND  
SAREF-HE'S GOT  
ARCHIE FLY A  
PRISONER AND HE'S  
EXPECTING A  
SHIP WHICH DOCKS  
NEXT WEEK!

WOW!!











WHAT I'LL ENJOY IS THE SHOOTIN' WHEN YOU'VE GOT 'EM. THEY'RE A TRICKY PAIR, CAP'N. I'VE GOT A SCORE TO SETTLE!



AYE HE'S DONE ME LOTS OF 'ARM THAT SPIRIT SENT ME UP FOR FORGERY ONCE!!



...EVER BEEN TO CENTRAL CITY CAPTAIN? ....? I SAID EVER BEEN TO?



WHERE IS EVERY-ONE CAPTAIN!!



CAAAB EEEK YOU?



WELL WHAT DO Y'KNOW HE'S FAINTED



LOOK, SPIRIT... A PLANE!

IT'S THE ONE I RADIOED! ... SOON WE'LL BE ON OUR WAY BACK TO CIVILIZATION!!



TWENTY MINUTES LATER

SAFE, AT LAST, SPIRIT WE'RE GOING HOME AFTER ALL THESE WEEKS! I BET YOU'LL BE GLAD TO UNLOAD THE ER... JEWEL OF GIZEH AFTER ALL THIS TIME... WON'T YOU???

HMM M. ?



A DAY LATER

...I SAID... I'LL BET IT'S NICE TO KNOW THAT SOON YOU CAN TAKE THAT--ER. THAT JEWEL OUT OF --ER--ER-- HIDING... ISN'T IT??

HUH?



ONE WEEK LATER

.. WHAT I SAID WAS, THAT I WONDER WHERE IN THE WORLD YOU COULD HAVE HID...

SAND SAREF!! ARE YOU BY ANY CHANCE TRYING TO WHEEL THE JEWEL OF GIZEH FROM ME??











AND ELLEN, SHE DIDN'T EVEN WAIT UNTIL I COULD EXPLAIN! MMM...



DR BYZANTINE??

?..ER..GULP!  
OH. YES YES  
AND YOU ARE THE  
SPIRIT, I PRESUME.

HE'S  
NOT  
DRESSED!  
OH  
DEAR!

A  
CHARACTER!  
ALL THESE  
CRIMEFIGHTERS  
ARE  
NEUROTIC,  
I GUESS!



PLEASE EXCUSE THE  
STATE OF UNDRESS...  
COUPLE OF  
THUGS FRISKED ME FOR  
THE JEWEL...CHUCKLE...  
THEY COULDN'T FIND  
IT ON ME!!

BY JOVE!  
BUT YOU  
DO  
HAVE  
IT..??



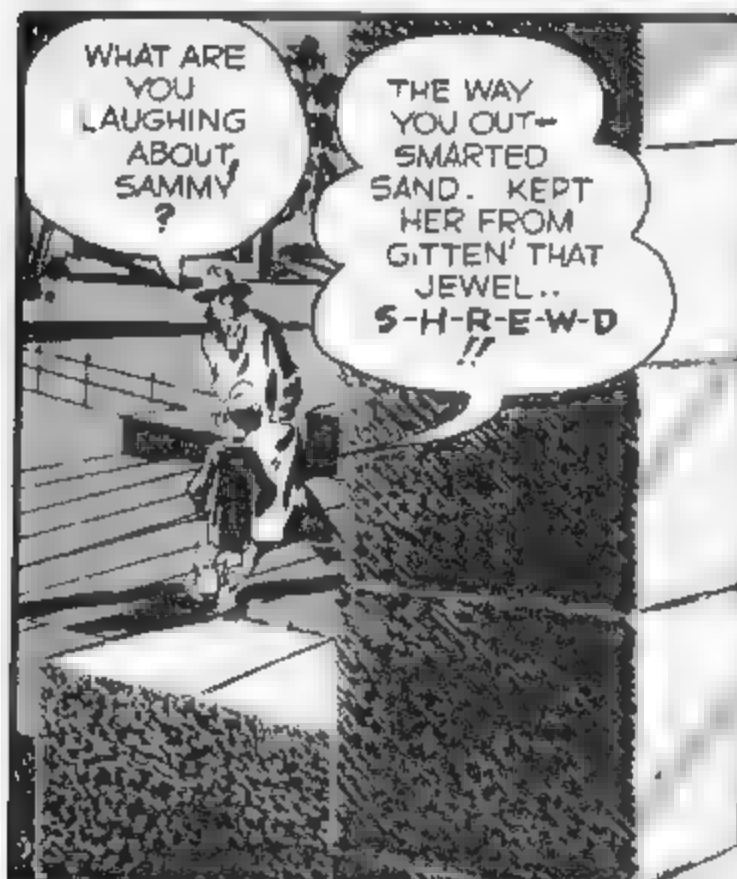
BUT WHERE?  
WHERE?

HERE!



JOVE  
!!

CLEVER,  
WOT!



WHAT ARE  
YOU  
LAUGHING  
ABOUT,  
SAMMY?

THE WAY  
YOU OUT-  
SMARTED  
SAND. KEPT  
HER FROM  
GITTEN' THAT  
JEWEL..  
S-H-R-E-W-D  
!!

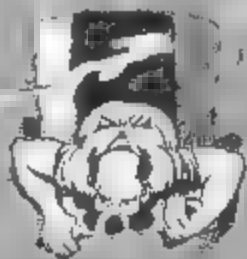


AH...MRS. VAN  
DE PEYSTER?  
DELIGHTED TO  
MEET YOU!

YES-S...YES-S...WE  
HAVE THE JEWEL  
...AHM...  
I'M SURE YOUR  
REFERENCES ARE  
QUITE GENUINE,  
SO YOU NEED  
ONLY  
SIGN A RECEIPT...

WHY,  
OF  
COURSE.  
BUT HURRY!  
I'M CATCHING  
A PLANE  
IN  
TWENTY  
MINUTES!

# PANCHO DE BOOL



## the Spirit

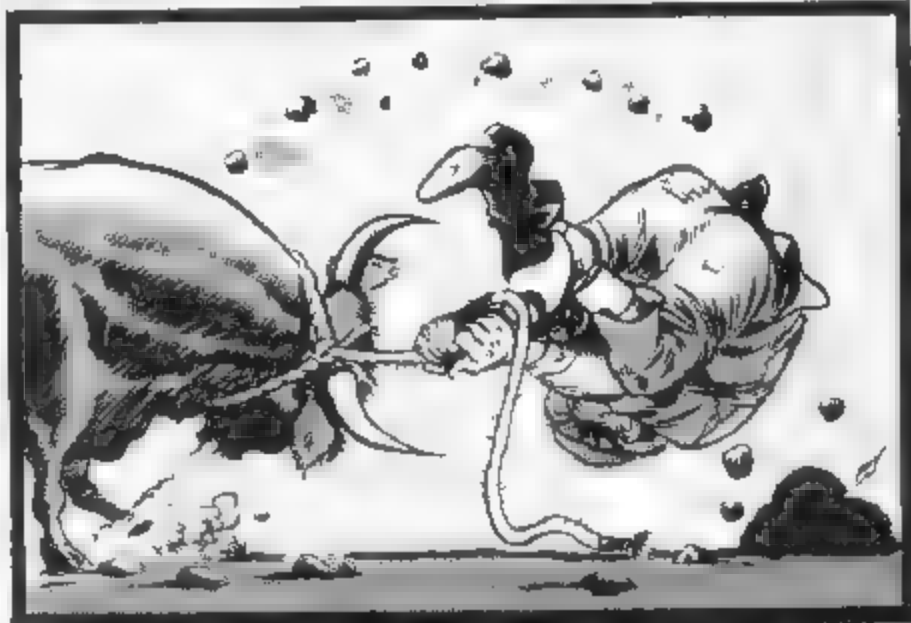
BY WILL EISNER

**PEDRO!**  
WOTTA MATTA  
WEETH YOU? GRAB  
DAT DORTY BOOL  
AN' BREENG HEEM  
EENSIDE THE SLOTER-  
HOUSE !!

WOTTA MATTA !!



PUFF PUFF AAAH SHAAADAPP!  
I'M DOING EET. THEES  
DOMB BOOL HEES TEENK  
HE'S EENA BOOL REENG!



SÍ, SEÑOR PEDRO... YOU ARE  
LEADING TO THE SLAUGHTER-  
HOUSE NONE OTHER THAN  
PANCHO DE BOOL... THE TOFFEST  
BOOL EEN ALL MEXICO!

¡¡MADRE  
MÍA!!  
¡HEESA  
TALKING  
BOOL!





SÍ, AMIGO.  
I TALK BECAUSE  
EEN MY BEEG BOOL  
HEART LIES A SAD  
STORY. PLEASE, SENOR  
BUTCHER, A MOMENTO  
WHILE I TELL YOU HOW I  
CAME TO THEES SORRY END...

I WAS NOT BORN TO BE EATEN,  
SEÑOR.. NO SORR, I WAS ONCE  
PANCHO THE BOOL. PANCHO THE  
TERRIBLE-TEMPERED, THE KILLER,  
THE OOOH. WHAT ELSE THEY  
CALLED ME!!

THE PRIDE OF MY TOWN!!  
THE HOPE OF THE PROVINCE!



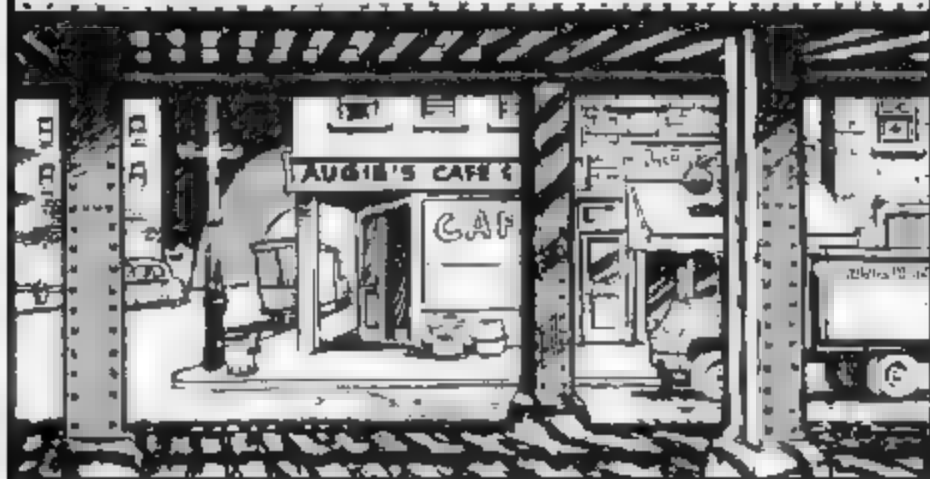
FEARED BY ALL MATADORS  
EXCEPT **PEPÍN de la MANCHA**  
...WHO GREW UP WEETH ME

...AND WHO PROMISED  
THAT, WHEN HE BECAME  
A GREAT MATADOR, HE  
WOULD CALL FOR ME AND  
WE WOULD FIGHT IN  
THE RING..



BUT SEÑOR... THEENGs DO NOT ALWAYS  
WORK OUT THE WAY YOUNGSTERS PLAN  
THEM... AND PEPIN CAME UNDER THE  
EENFLUENCE OF BAD COMPANIONS WHEECH  
LED HEEM NOT TO THE PRIZE RING, BUT TO  
CENTRAL CESTY, U.S.A... IN A BAD, BAD PART  
OF TOWN.

HERE, BROKE AND SEECK, HE DREAMT OF MEHICO,  
HEES ABANDONED CAREER... AND WAITED FOR  
A BIT OF LUCK THAT WOULD SEND HEEM BACK  
HOME ..



THE "LUCK", OR BREAKS, CAME ONE DAY... IN  
THEES FORM...



AAH HE'S TOO  
YELLOW TO DO  
IT.. THAT PEPIN  
IS A PUNK!

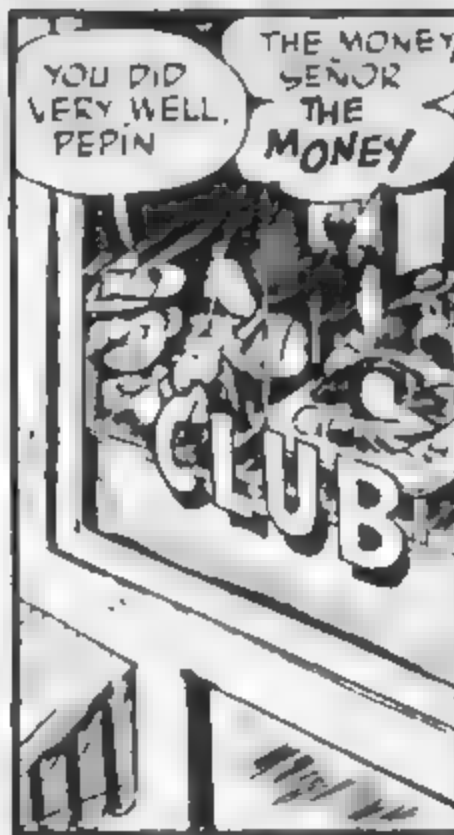
DO NOT SAY THEES  
NICKY.. THEES EES  
PEPIN, THE GREAT  
MATADOR I KNEW  
BACK EEN MEH.CO!  
\$100. WHAT YOU  
COULD DO  
WEETH THAT  
EH, PEP.N ?



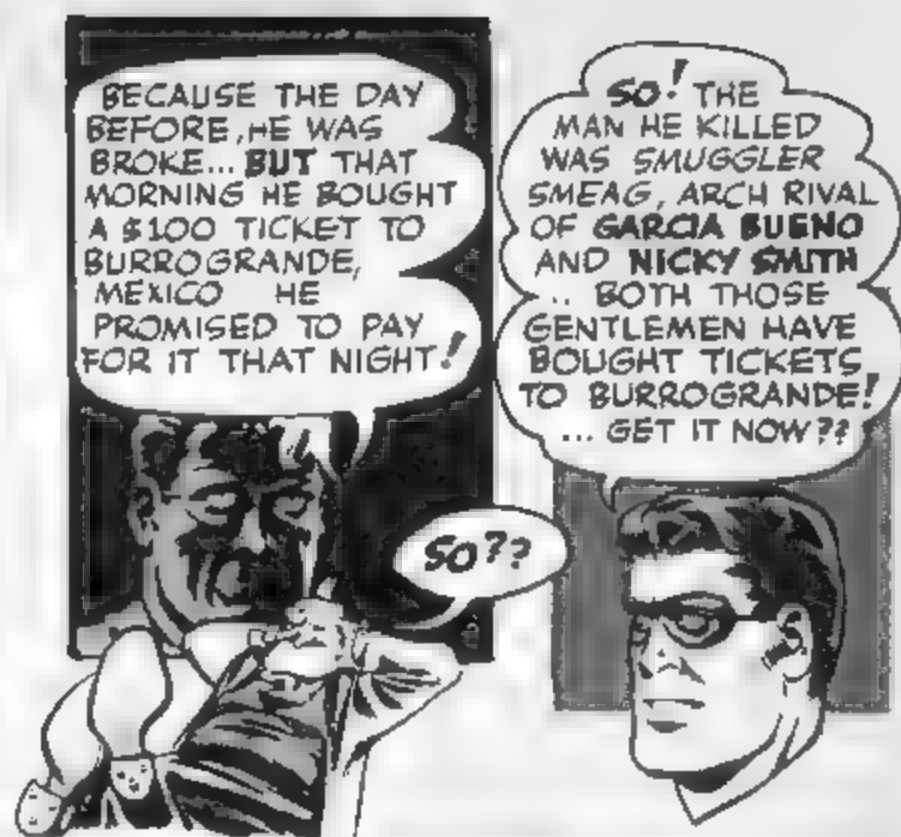
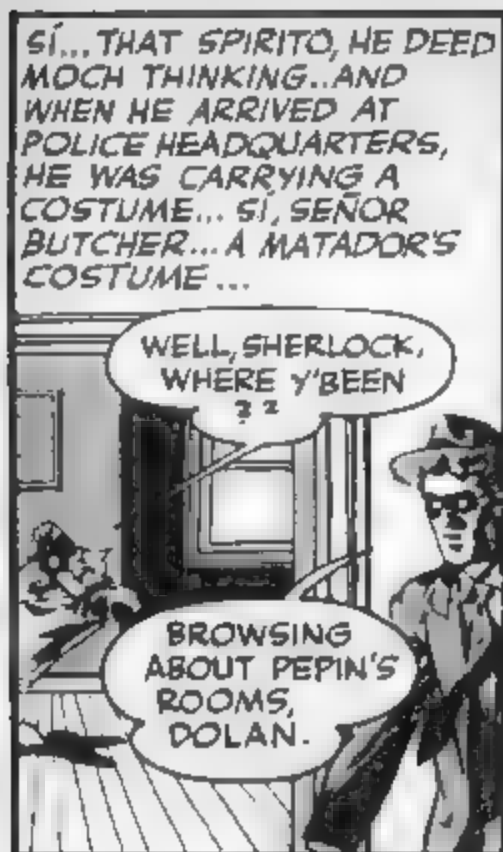
SÍ.. \$100 WOULD  
BUY A TICKET HOME,  
EET EES THE SEASON  
FOR THE BOOL  
FIGHTS...



SÍ .. I DO EET  
SÍ







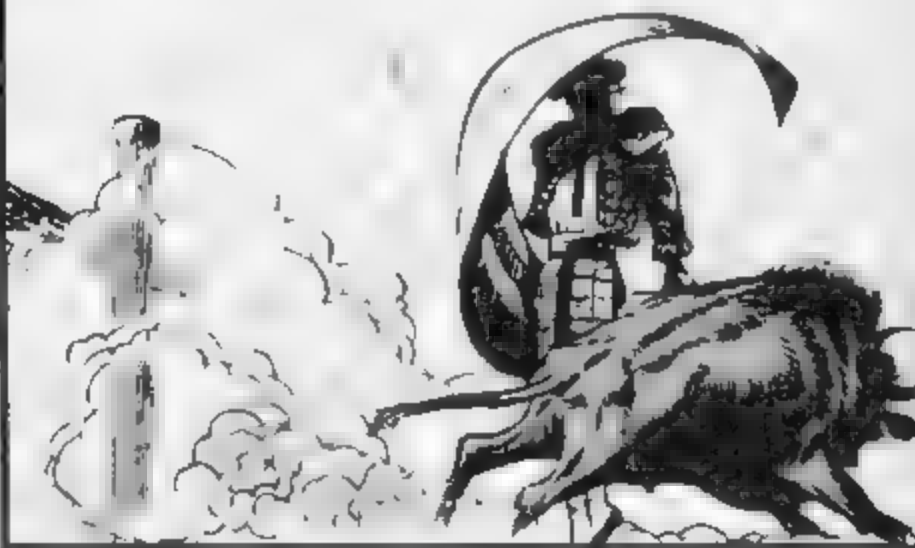
..AND SEÑOR...WHEN THE SUN ROSE OVER BURROGRANDE NEXT MORNING...



NO NO NO... TWO MORE FRIGHTENED CROOKS YOU HAVE NEVER SEEN! MADRE MIA, HOW THEY RUSH DOWNSTAIRS TO THE PRACTISE PEN... BUT THEY CAREFULLY DO NOT GET SO CLOSE THAT THE BOOLFIGHTER COULD SEE THEM.



...AND SURE ENOUGH.. THERE BEFORE THEIR EYES WAS WHAT APPEARED TO BE HEEM.. AND EEN HEES OWN COSTUME, FOR WHEECH HE WAS WIDELY KNOWN.... AHEN EET WAS A LEEETLE HARD FOR ME TO SEE ALL THAT WAS GOING ON, BECAUSE EET WAS ME WHO THE YOUNG MATADOR WAS FIGHTING



WHAT A FIGHTER!



QUEEK WEETH THE CAPE



WAIT, SMEETH WAIT. THERE MUST BE ANOTHER WAY TO KEEL HEEM AGAIN!

**BALONEY!**  
..ONLY ONE WAY TO KILL HIM..MY WAY!  
..ONE SIDE!



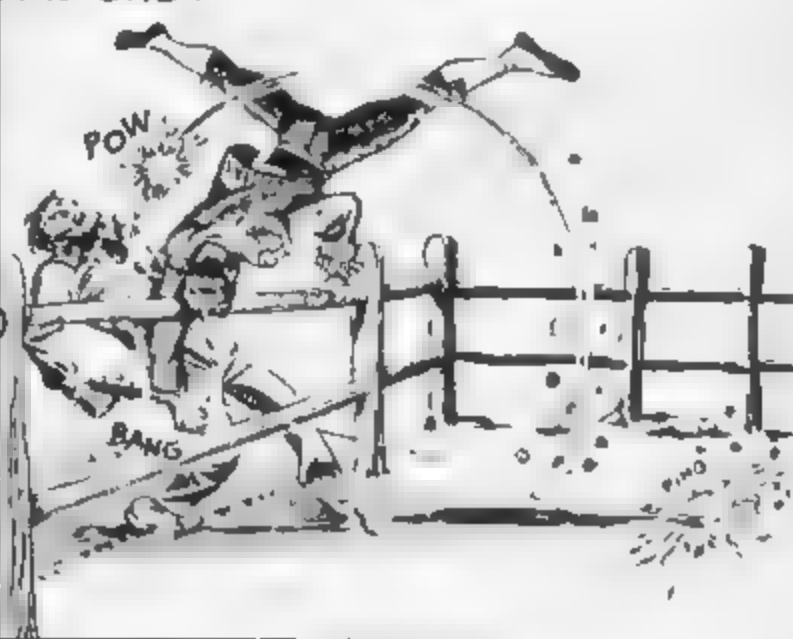
COME OUTTA THERE, PEPIN. THOUGHT YOU'D ESCAPE US BY PLAY N' POSSUM EH? DIS TIME I WON'T MISS...



WELL WELL WELL.. NICKY SMITH.. DIDN'T THINK THIS GAG'D WORK SO QUICKLY... OR SO EASILY!!

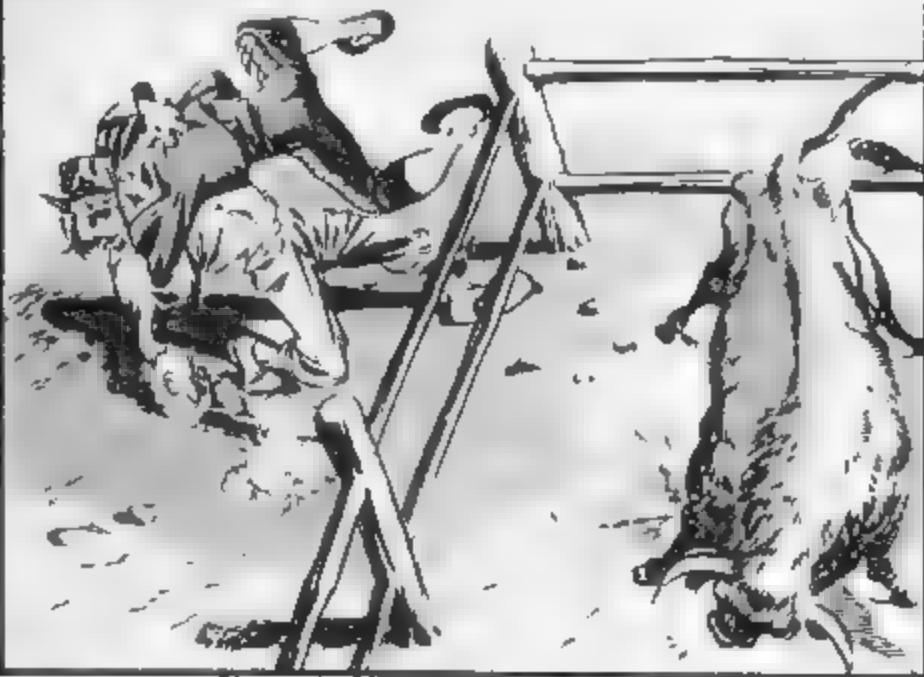


..OF COURSE YOU KNEW EET ALL THE TIME... THAT EET WAS REALLY EL SPIRITO, THE SPIRIT, DRESSED UP! NATURALLY, I WAS NOT GONNA BE SQUEALERS AND TEEP 'EM OFF! SO... I PLAY ALONG WEETH THE GAG.





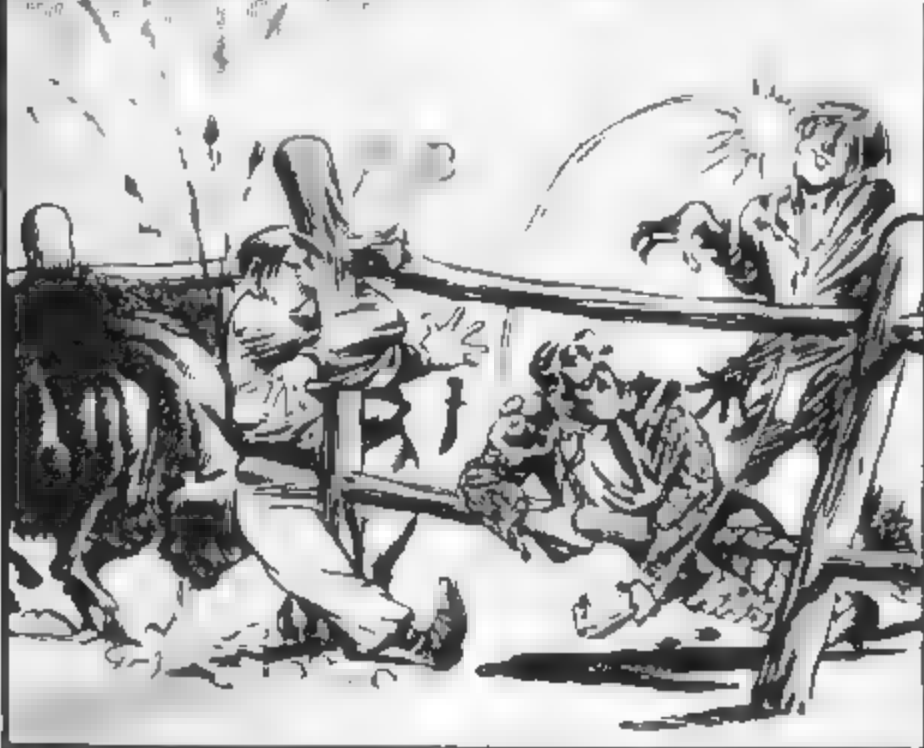
CARAMBA BULLETS BEGIN TO FLY AROUND LIKE FLIES AND I AM CATCH ONE EEN THE LEG. BOY, AM I MAD!! THEES MEANS NO MORE FIGHTING FOR ME!



I AM LOOSE MY TEMPER I AM LOOK AROUND FOR SOMEBODY TO GORE CARAMBA, I AM ONE HOT TAMALE!!



..ALL AT ONCE I AM SEE THAT FAT PEEG GARCIA..HE'S SNEAKING OP ONNA SPIRITO...



THEES EES JOOS' WHAT I'M LOOKING FOR...



..HA, SENOR WHEN I FEENISH WEETH THAT ONE, HE'S DEAD.



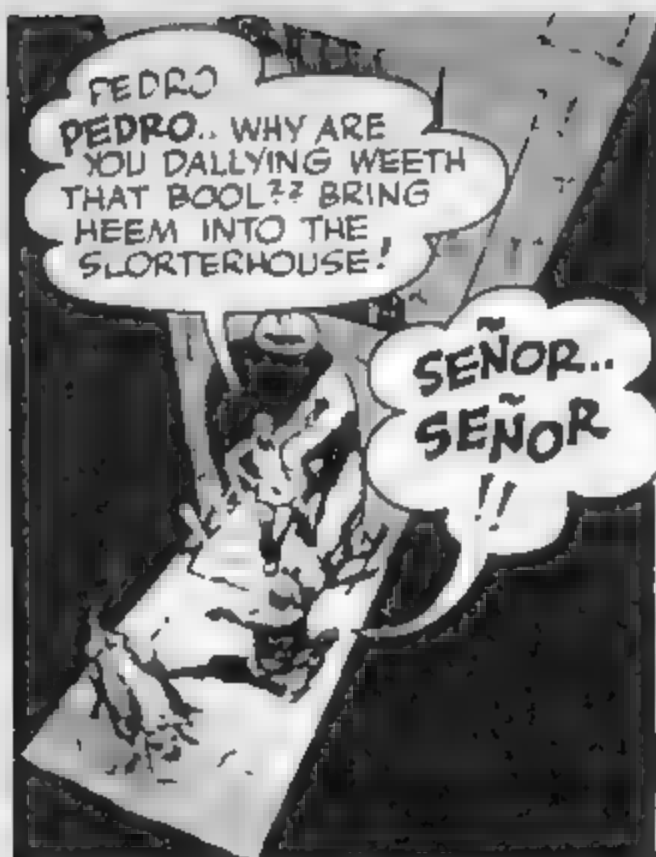
AN WHEN I LOOK AROUND, THE SPIRIT, HE'S TALKING TO THE COPS HE DOES NOT EVEN NOT CE I'M BEING TAKEN AWAY TO THE BUTCHER'S.



SI, SENOR SPIRIT COMMISSIONER DOLAN HAS WIRED US.. CAN WE HELP?

THANKS..I'VE GOT MY MAN NOW ALL I NEED ARE THE EXTRADITION PAPERS FOR SMITH...

EASILY DONE SENOR.. AS FOR GARCIA, WE'LL CARE FOR WHAT'S LEFT OF HIM





The

# CHRISTMAS

# Spice

BY WPH EISNER



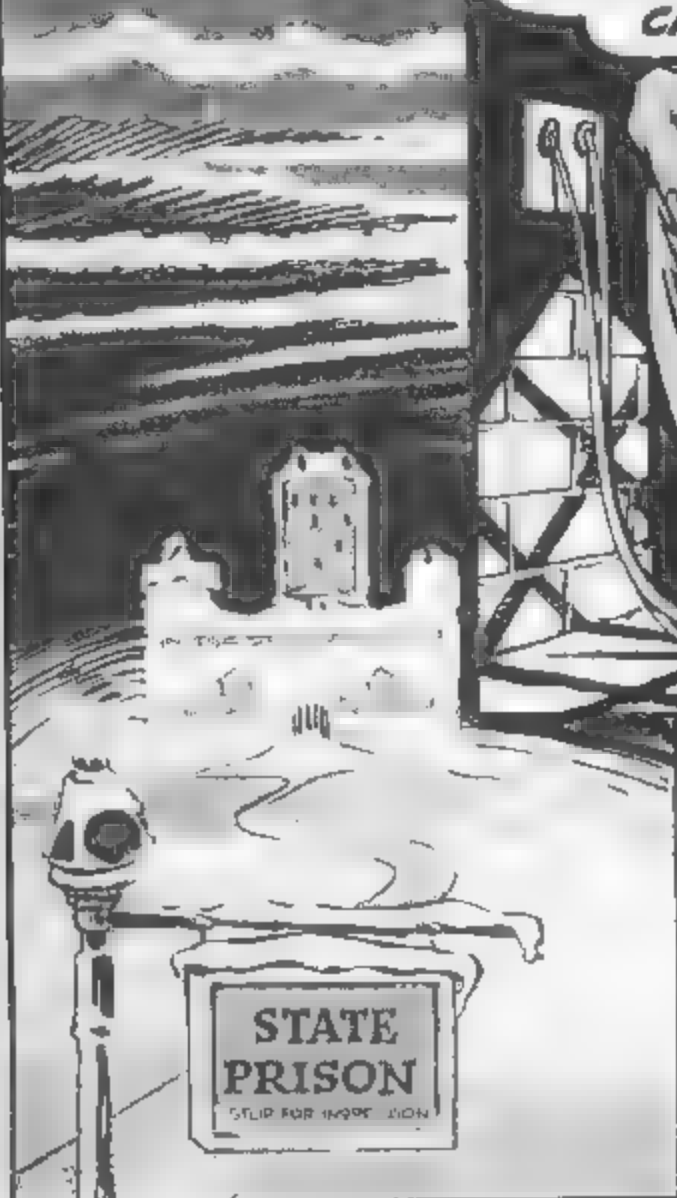
And on this day,  
those who all the year  
are grasping, and seek riches  
from others,  
pause for one brief moment  
and become kind, human,  
generous beings...  
all that dreamers believe  
men should be...



For so the legend runs...



And so it came to pass  
one year, not too long ago,  
a heavy snow fell upon the land...  
and from Central City in the south  
to State Prison in the north  
the little lights twinkled on  
and it was Christmas.









**NOW...HO HO. LET ME SEE BASHER BAINS AH, YES HERE! RIGHT AT THE BOTTOM OF MY LIST..BUT YOU ARE ON IT! NOW, WHAT GIFT DID YOU ASK FOR?**

**GIFT, MY EYE!**

I'M FED UP WID DIS GAG!  
I'LL <sup>ULP</sup>ULP  
I'LL BE 'HIS WHISKERS ARE REAL HE'S **REAL HUMAN!**

**CERTAINLY! NOW, MY BOY, WHAT ABOUT YOUR GIFT? COME NOW, WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE FOR CHRISTMAS?**

O.K. O.K. I'LL GO ALONG WID IT...YOU AST FIR IT AN' Y'R GONNA GIT IT!

**I WANT MY FREEDOM FOR CHRISTMAS!**

HMFF! TRY T'GIT ME DAT IF Y'CAN !!

**FINE, FINE... YOU SHALL HAVE IT, SON... SIMPLY GO UP THROUGH THE AIR VENT I CAME IN BY... HERE. WEAR MY CLOTHES..I'LL WAIT HERE UNTIL YOU RETURN.**

**WHAT?!**

<sup>ULP</sup>ULP

RETURN. YEAH... I'LL RETURN... LIKE FUN I WILL

O.K... HELP ME UP!

**HAW! Y'FOOL! Y'OLD FOOL!!**

DON'T Y'KNOW WHAT I'LL DO WITH MY FREEDOM??

**I'LL KILL THE SPIRIT!**

I SWORE I'D KILL HIM!

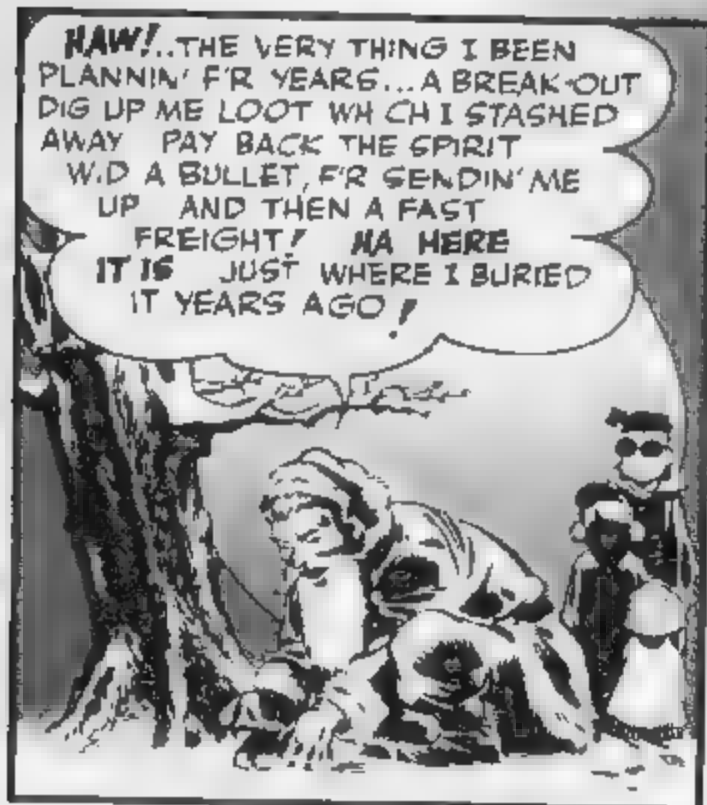
TUT-TUT I ONLY GIVE PRESENTS... I CAN ONLY **HOP**E YOU USE THEM WELL...

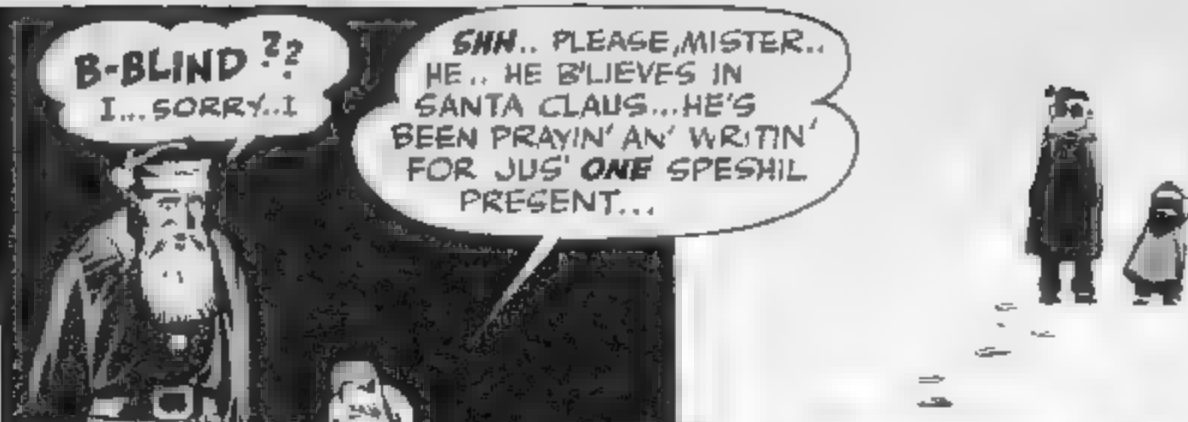
**YAWN**, PLEASE TRY TO GET BACK BEFORE DAWN...MUGT GET BACK TO THE NORTH POLE..

YAWN...









**B-BLIND ??**  
I... SORRY..I

**SHH.. PLEASE, MISTER..**  
HE.. HE B' LIEVES IN  
SANTA CLAUS... HE'S  
BEEN PRAYIN' AN' WRITIN'  
FOR JUS' ONE SPESHIL  
PRESENT...



**Y'SEE, HE CAN  
BE CURED... IF N  
WE C'N GET LOTS A  
MONEY FOR A  
DOCTOR..**

**C'MON,  
TEENCHY... HE  
AIN'T NO SANTA  
CLAUS... THERE  
AIN'T ANY  
SANTA CLAUS!**



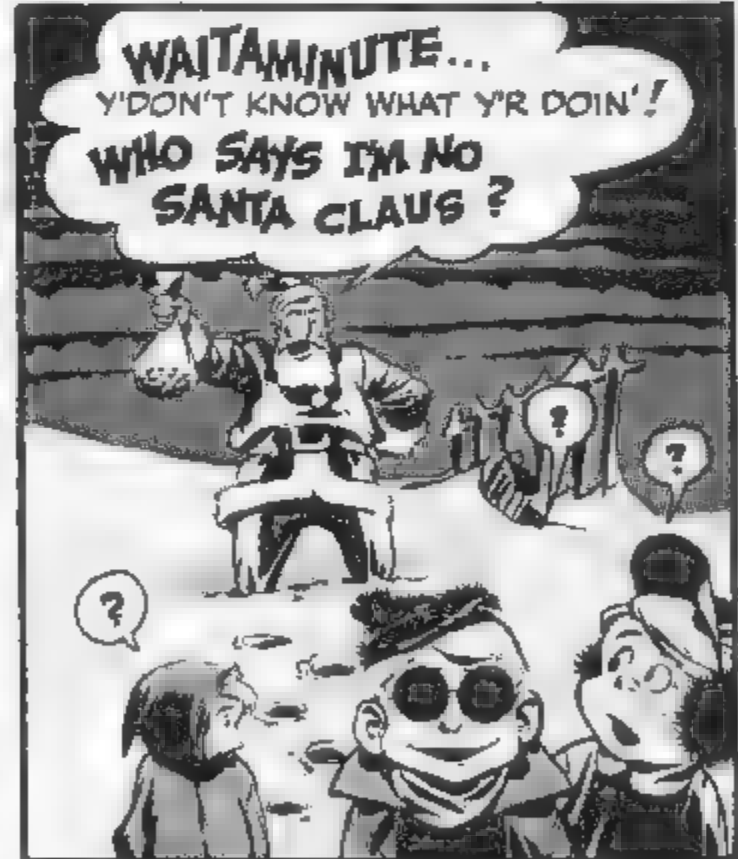
**SORRY,  
FRANKIE..**

**IT'S OKAY,  
FELLAS... I.. I DIDN'T  
EXPECT ANYTHING  
ANYWAY...  
HONEST..**



**WE JES'  
AIN'T A REAL  
SANTA CLAUS.**

**MAYBE..  
MAYBE WE  
BETTER BE  
ON OUR  
WAY, FELLERS!**



**WAIT A MINUTE...  
Y'DON'T KNOW WHAT Y'R DOIN'!  
WHO SAYS I'M NO  
SANTA CLAUS?**



**BUT YOU  
SAID.**

**BUT THERE  
AIN'T NO.**

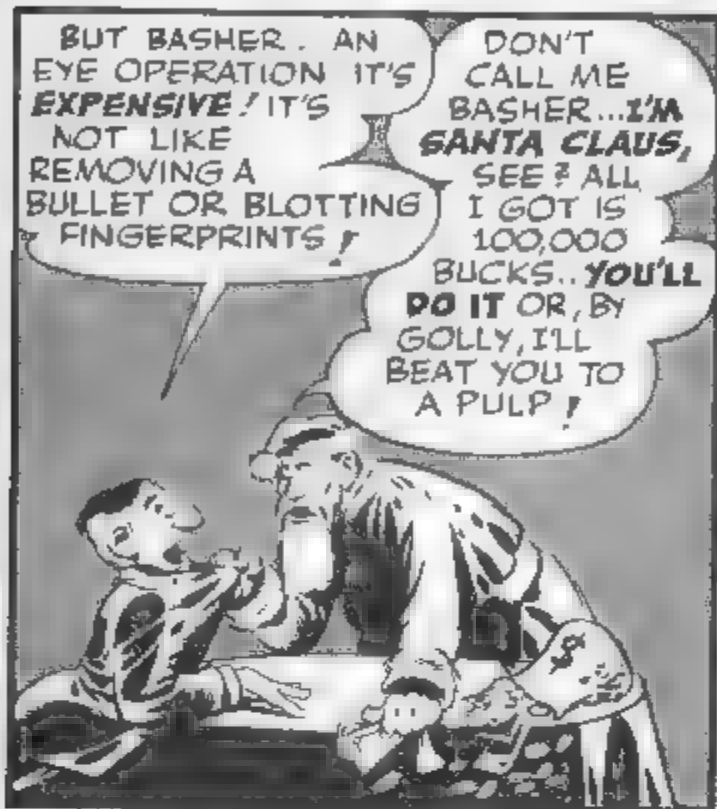
**SHADDAP! WHEN  
I SAY I'M SANTA, I'M SANTA...  
THE BIGGEST ONE  
YOU EVER SAW!**





WHAT'S  
SANTA CLAUS  
DOIN' NOW?

HE JES' WENT  
IN TO SEE ONE O' HIS  
DWARFS WHO IS IN  
CHARGE O' FIXIN'  
UP PEOPLE



BUT BASHER. AN  
EYE OPERATION IT'S  
**EXPENSIVE!** IT'S  
NOT LIKE  
REMOVING A  
BULLET OR BLOTTING  
FINGERPRINTS!

DON'T  
CALL ME  
BASHER...I'M  
**SANTA CLAUS,**  
SEE? ALL  
I GOT IS  
100,000  
BUCKS..YOU'LL  
**DO IT OR, BY**  
**GOLLY, I'LL**  
**BEAT YOU TO**  
**A PULP!**



NOW LADS...IF YOU'LL  
COME WITH ME, I'LL  
TAKE CARE OF  
EVERYTHING.. SAY  
GOOD-BYE TO...ER..  
SANTA.

GOODBYE,  
CHILDREN..  
**MERRY**  
**CHRISTMAS**

GOSH...  
THANKS,  
SANTA  
THANKS...

I MUST BE  
OFF TO..  
ER THE  
NORTH  
POLE!



YOU'RE  
BACK..  
SO **SOON?**  
SPLENDID!  
I'LL MAKE  
THE NORTH  
POLE BY  
DAWN

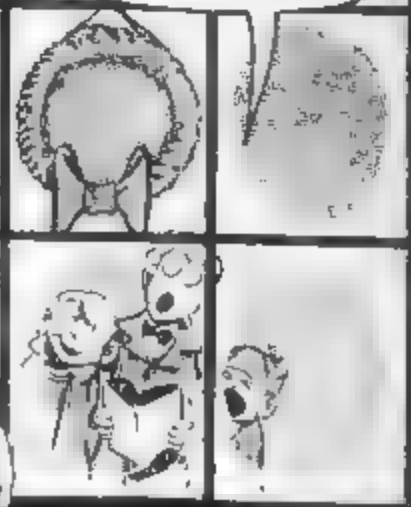
YEH



THAT WAS ABOUT A YEAR  
AGO...AND TO THIS DAY NO ONE  
EVEN SUSPECTS THE TRUTH...NOT EVEN  
THE LITTLE URCHINS SINGING OUTSIDE  
OUR WINDOW NOW..ALL THEY  
KNOW IS THAT **FRANKIE**  
CAN **SEE AGAIN...**AND THAT  
IT WAS A GIFT FROM **SANTA.**



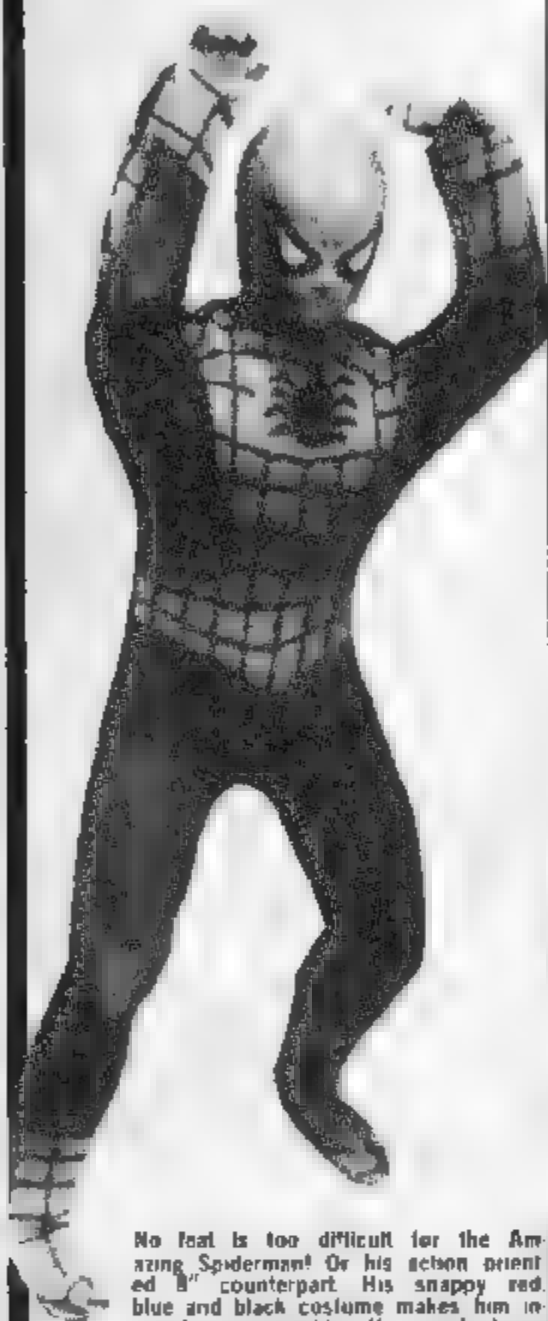
*Merry*  
*Christmas*  
**ONE**  
**AND ALL!**



# SUPER FLEXIBLE! THEY BEND! THEY TWIST! 8 INCH SUPER ACTION FIGURES

Join Spiderman and the other superheroes and villains! Amass an 8" high army, battle dressed and ready for action. Anyway you can move, they can move. They twist at neck and waist. Bend at shoulders, elbows, wrists, hips, knees and ankles. Super-flexible. Made of durable flesh colored plastic. Authentic, brightly colored costumes. Plastic accessories. Make your own animated films. Create a Spiderman comic. Super models that can't be beat!

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No feat is too difficult for the Amazing Spiderman! Or his action oriented 8" counterpart. His snappy red, blue and black costume makes him instantly recognizable. His mask keeps his secret identity safe! #2465 \$3.98

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An 8" colossus, dressed in the traditional leopard spotted costume of the Lord of the Jungle. With his knife unsheathed he's ready for jungle action. Acrobatics are mere monkey-play for this flexible figure! #2464/\$3.98

## ROBIN



Batman's right hand man... the Boy Wonder. A junior superhero poised for adventure. His green costume with yellow cape and red vest lets you know the masked figure is really Robin. An 8" super-bendable hero! #2458/\$3.98

## THE RIDDLER



Batman's arch enemy! His riddles are deadly. His punch lines carry a wallop. Who is the 8" man behind a purple mask? Why is his green and black costume covered with question marks? Guess! His mask stays on! #2471/\$4.49

## THE JOKER



Why is this man smiling? Has he just joined The Batman? Or is he secretly contemplating another hideous joke? His purple tuxedo and green hair make him hard to miss. He's a flexible 8" figure you love to hate! #2469/\$4.49

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Superman's enemy. A harbinger of mischief from another dimension. How can one hubby figure be so bad? Don't ask! If you see his purple and gold figure, run! 8" high. Flexible as a tongue must be to say his name! #2472/\$4.49

## THE PENGUIN



A rotund figure in white tie and tails, his monocle and top hat give him away. He's Batman's long nosed enemy, that dapper dastard. The Penguin 8" of trickery. A crook who's run completely a-fowl of the law! #2470/\$4.49

## SUPER ACTION GALS

A fantastic collection of flexible super-femmes! 8" beauties with durable plastic bodies, delicate features, soft curly hair. Authentic cloth costumes. Colorful plastic accessories. Flexible bodies that bend, twist, move! Action figures that make the most of their super-heroine status. They're strong, tough, beautiful. Dynamic assets to any superhero action!

## WONDER WOMAN



The amazing amazon with super powers, super strength. Recognizable anywhere in her red, yellow and blue costume with the white stars. No mask on this 8" bendable doll. She's Diana Prince. She's incredible! #24121/\$4.75

## BAT GIRL



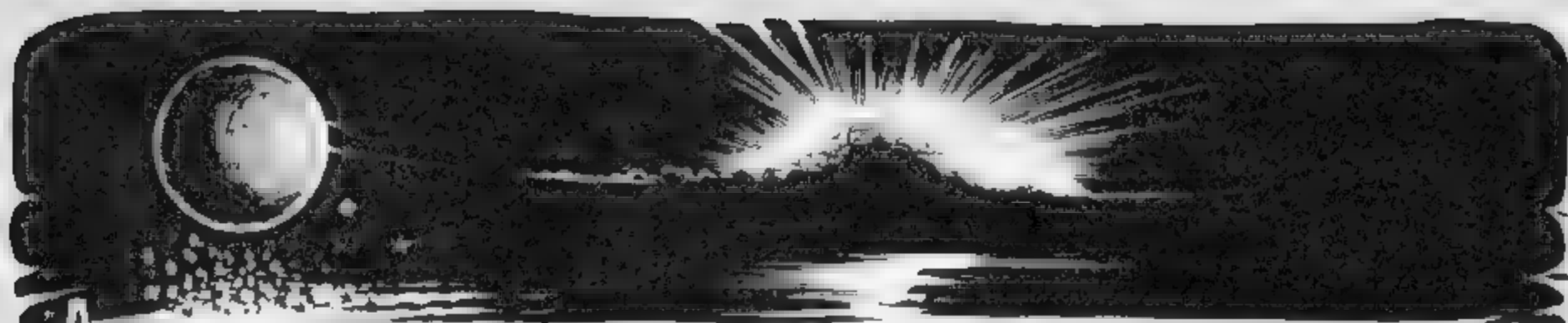
The caped and cowled avenger's female counterpart. Her costume is just like the caped crusader's. Steel gray jumpsuit, yellow accessories, blue cape and hood. Flame-colored hair tops the 8" flexible action doll! #24123/\$4.75

## CAT WOMAN

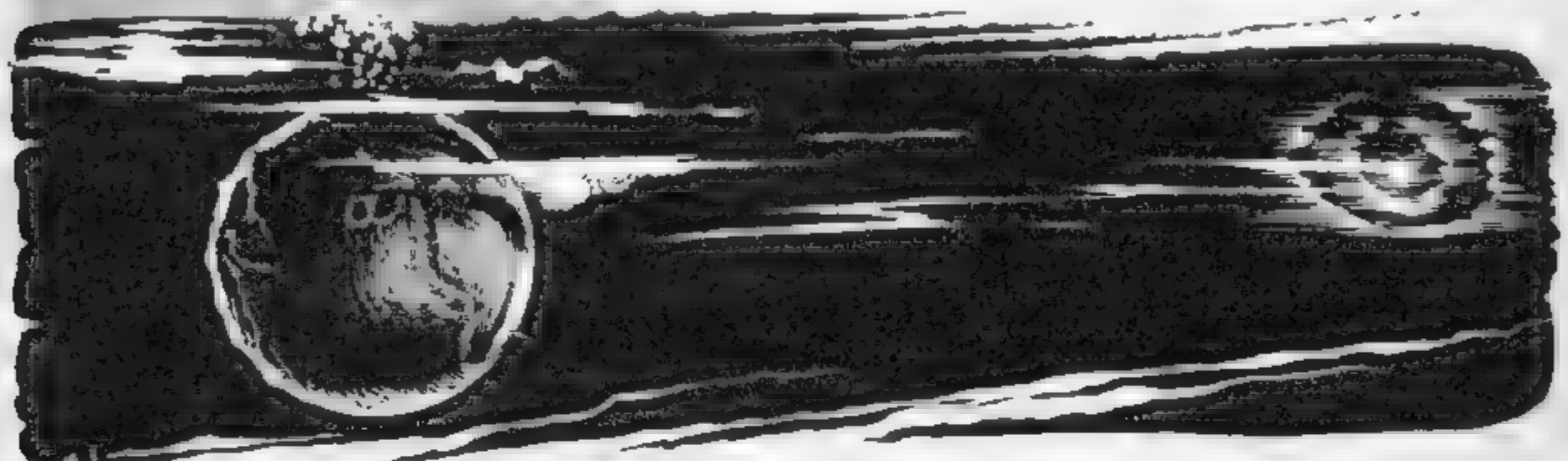


Her golden eyes glow through her red mask. Her tail twitches as she catches the scent. It's Batman. He's her prey. She stalks forward in her blue costume. And pounces. 8" tall. Realistic feline action! #24124/\$4.75





**A**ND NOW IT IS **DECEMBER**.. AND THE **EARTH** HAVING SWUNG IN ITS ORBIT TO THE **FARTHEST** EXTREME ALLOWED BY **CENTRIFUGAL FORCE** (.. which enslaves it to the sun) ... **COOLS** AS IT BRUSHES THE **CHILL** OF OUTER SPACE...



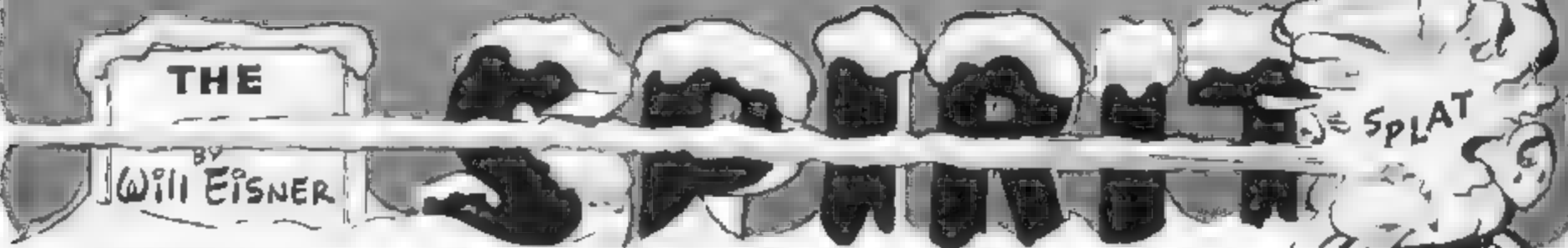
**N**OW THERE GATHER OVER THE COUNTRIES NEAREST THE **NORTH POLE** GREAT CLOUDS OF **STEAM** THAT HAVE COME IN VAST FIELDS OF EVAPORATED MOISTURE FROM THE **WET TROPICS**... **AND A MIGHTY SEASONAL CHANGE OCCURS!**

**T**HE STEAMY MASS STRIKES THE **SOLID-COLD AIR** AND **LO!**.. THE **DROPLETS** CRYSTALIZE AND FLOAT **EARTHWARD**....



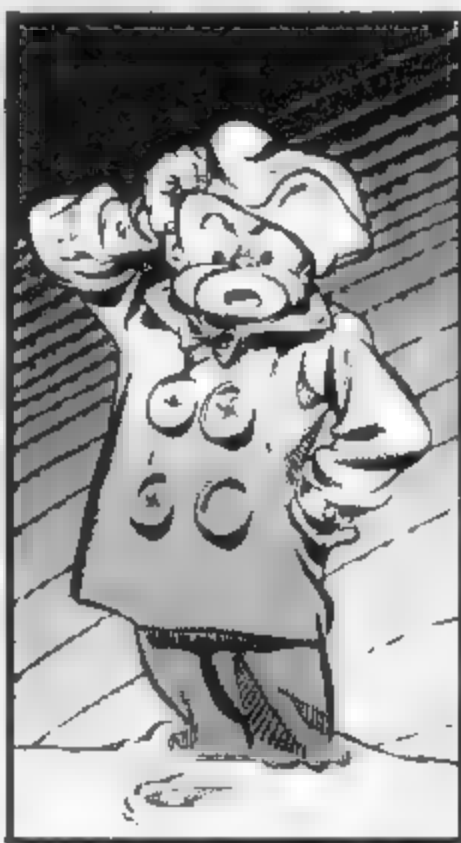
**THERE** THE **INHABITANTS** (hardy souls that they are) ARE **READY!!!** .... FOR THEY HAVE HARNESSSED THE **WINDS** AND THE **SUN** AND THE **RAIN** .... AYE, RARE INDEED IS THE **NATURAL PHENOMENON** THAT **MAN** HAS NOT **LEARNED TO USE**...

# SNOW



**THE**

BY  
**Will Eisner**

















AND SO...



HEH-HEH-HEH-HEH-HEH!  
HEH HEH-HEH HEH!  
HEH-HEH HEH



OW!



MUMBLE...MUMBLE...MUMBLE  
NO ONE... NO ONE... MAGIC!



...NOW, FOR MANY MONTHS THE SNOW WILL BLANKET THESE PARTS OF THE GLOBE, UNTIL THE EARTH TILTS NEARER THE SUN ONCE MORE TO COMPLETE A CYCLE...

AND SO, WHILE THE WINTER LASTS MAN MUST LEARN TO MAKE HIS OWN WARMTH AND OTHERWISE PROTECT HIMSELF FROM THE HAZARDS OF THIS SEASON...



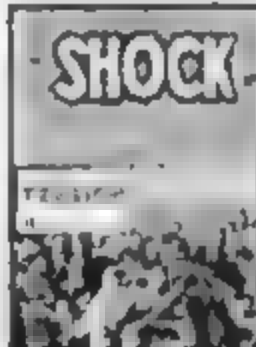
# FULL-COLOR REPRINTS OF EC COMICS!

To comics fans and aficionados of excellent graphic tales of classic horror, the EC logo shines. In the annals of comics memorabilia, work done by the EC staff is revered above that done by most of their contemporary competitors. EC comics! Wally Wood, Frank Frazetta, Jack Davis, Al Williamson, Joe Orlando, Jack Kamen, John Severin, Reed Crandall, Graham Ingles, George Kamen, Bernie Krugstein, Johnny Craig, Al Feldstein. These names made EC comics the greatest in color graphic horror! These are the artists whose work is reprinted in these 32 page comics. Now you can get reprints of the originals, exactly as they appeared 20 years ago. Complete issues of TWO FISTED TALES, WEIRD SCIENCE, WEIRD FANTASY, VAULT OF HORROR, CRYPT OF TERROR, HAUNT OF FEAR, SHOCK SUSPENSTORIES, CRIME SUSPENSTORIES. Great comics, just the way you remember them. Just as good as you heard they were. Just as good as you hoped they'd be. Dr. Frederick Wortham's "Seduction of the Innocent" heralded the end of EC comics. A whole generation has grown up minus the ministrations of the Old Witch, the Vault Keeper and the Crypt Keeper. Now is your chance to enjoy what you've missed at a price you can afford. Quality reprints. Quality comics! 7 x 10! In full color! Fantastic art! Spectacular stories! You've never seen anything like 'em!



**WEIRD SCIENCE #12** Thrilling shockers "Dream of Doom" by Wally Wood. George Kamen's "Experiment in Death" Lost in the Microcosm a Harvey Kurtzman story. Things from Outer Space by Al Feldstein. A Feldstein cover. Fine EC horror! #21186 \$1.25

**COMING SOON!  
THE NEXT EC  
REPRINT ISSUE!  
WEIRD FANTASY  
#3 FEATURING  
WOOD, KAMEN,  
ELKIN AND  
CRANDALL**



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Thrilling stories! Fabulous art! Shocking tales featuring four of the finest EC artists. Read Jack Kamen's "Kickback". The gut wrenching war tale "The Patriots" by Wally Wood! Halloween a classic pumpkin yarn by Graham Ingles! Wally Wood's landmark sci-fi story "See Dad M's A Daisy!" Plus a fabulous Wally Wood cover! Get this newest EC reprint today. Find out what EC was all about! #21199 \$1.50

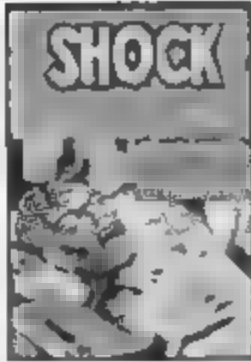


**CRYPT OF TERROR #1** Features "Success Story" by Joe Orlando. "Upon Reflection" by Jack Davis plus a Davis cover. "Bird Aieys" by George Evans featured in the film tales from the Crypt and Tatter Up by Graham Ingles. #21185 \$2.00



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**HAUNT OF FEAR #12** One of EC's finest efforts! Features Graham Ingles' "Poetic Justice" of mad tales from the Crypt! Plus Jack Davis' "What's Cooing" and tales by Joe Orlando & Johnny Craig. Plus an exciting Craig biography. Order #21080 \$1.50

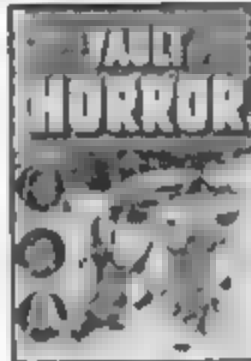


**WEIRD FANTASY #13** Two incredible tales by Wally Wood. Night this incredible issue "Home to Stay" tells of an astronaut's last flight. "The End" recounts man's last days. Also work by Joe Orlando and Jack Kamen. #21095 \$1.50



**CRIME SUSPENSTORIES #25** Gripping tales of criminal terror. Three for the money by Jack Kamen, "Dog Food" by Reed Crandall, plus "Key Chain" by Bernie Krugstein and "The Squealer" by artist G. Evans. #21115 \$1.50

**VAULT OF HORROR #26** "Two of a Kind" by Johnny Craig. "Half Way Horrible" by Jack Kamen. "Hook Line and Sinker" and a special cover story by Jack Davis entitled "Giant in Concrete." Great! #21120 \$1.50



**SHOCK SUSPENSTORIES #6** Dead Right by Kamen. Orlando's "Not So Tough Sugar" and "Spice" by Ghostly and one of the most important comic stories ever. Wood's "Under Cover A Shockery!" #21122 \$1.50



**TWO FISTED TALES #34** In this issue is Davis' "Bel" by Wood. Severin's "Crapsudine!" Evans' "Gynagogue" and the original letter pages. Plus other original features. Order #21152 \$1.25



**HAUNT OF FEAR #23** A full tale of EC terror! Evans' "No Silver Atoll" Davis' "Count by Clubbing" Hanger and "Gretel" by Kamen. Ingles' comic book "Creep Course" plus "Ghostly" cover. A must! #21164 \$1.25

## EC HORROR COMICS OF THE 50's HARDCOVER BOOK

This impressive hardcover collection represents the best art and stories from the famous EC comics. The large 15"x12" book has over 200 pages filled with 23 full color stories plus biographies and pictures of their staff. Art by Frazetta, Evans, Crandall, Krugstein, Orlando, Ingles, Williamson, Craig, Davis, Kamen & der Torres. Wood. Scripts by Feldstein. An exciting array. The best of EC comics. #2152 \$19.95

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## PLANET of the APES JIGSAW PUZZLES

FULL COLOR! OVER 100 PIECES! BIG 10" x 14"



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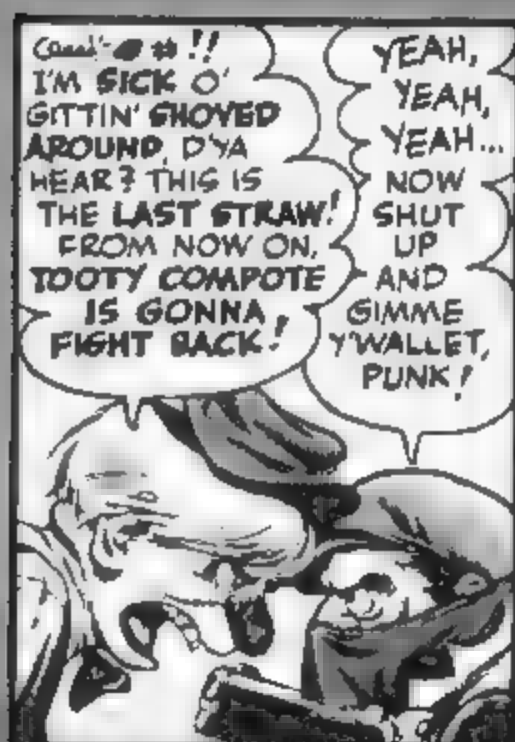
### ASSEMBLE APE SCENES

See you run over and assemble these great jigsaw puzzles from the book "Planet of the Apes" movie pictures. Puzzle #1 features a battle scene from the army of General Urk. Puzzle #2 is of General Urk's last battle. Puzzle #3 features Lisa, Cornelius and Taro. These puzzles come packed in a sturdy box with a wrap around color photo of the puzzle. Each is a big 10" x 14" comes over 100 pieces and provides hours of pleasure.



# THE GREAT TOOTY COMPOTE

BY WILL EISNER





BUT IT IS ONLY FAIR TO  
POINT OUT THAT TOOTY  
COMPOTE WAS NOT  
THE ONLY ONE  
BEING PUSHED  
AROUND.

... THE  
MANGLES  
MOB, FOR INSTANCE..

IN A BOOTH AT SNEAD'S  
DRINKERY & WAYSIDE REST.

MUGGER  
LEAVE US  
FACE IT. WE  
ARE NOW  
WITHOUT A  
TORPEDO.

ONLY TOO  
WELL DO I  
KNOW IT! TH'S  
MORNING'S FIGHT  
WITH THE SPIRIT  
LEAVES US  
SHORN OF A TRIGGER  
MAN... AND UNLESS  
WE GIT ONE SOON,  
THE MANGLES MOB  
IS DOOMED!

..AND  
HARDLY HAD  
I UTTERED  
THE WORDS  
WHEN..  
SIGH..  
HE DID!

LISTEN.. BAW! LISTEN  
TO ME, FRIEND I MUST  
TELL YOU.. HEAR ME OUT.  
DO YOU REALIZE  
WHAT I'M SAYING?

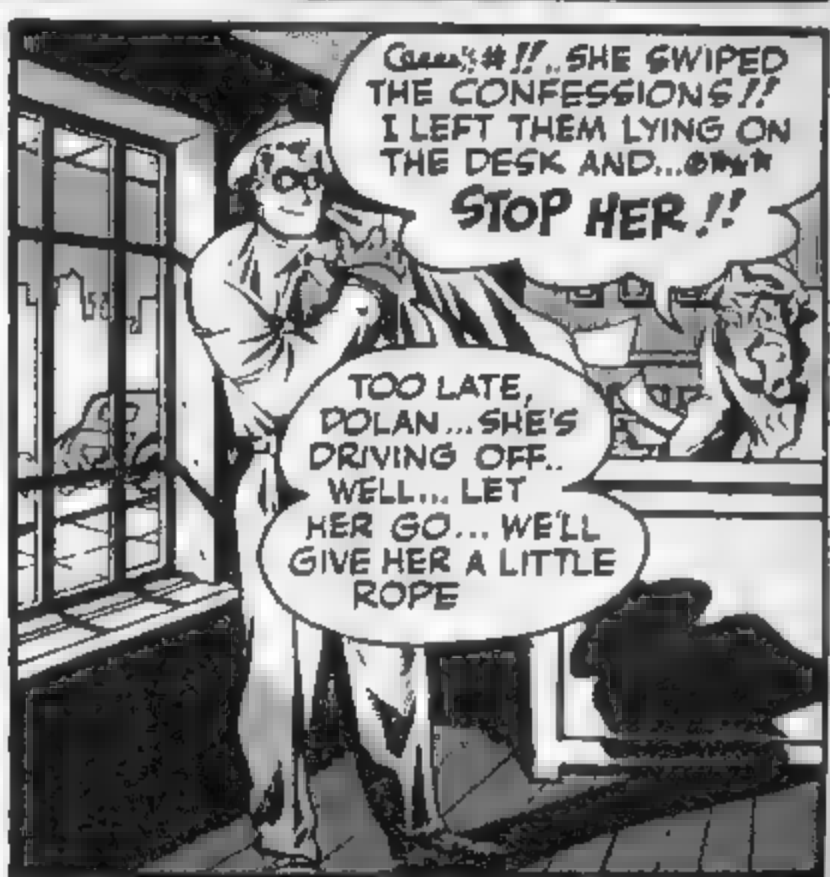
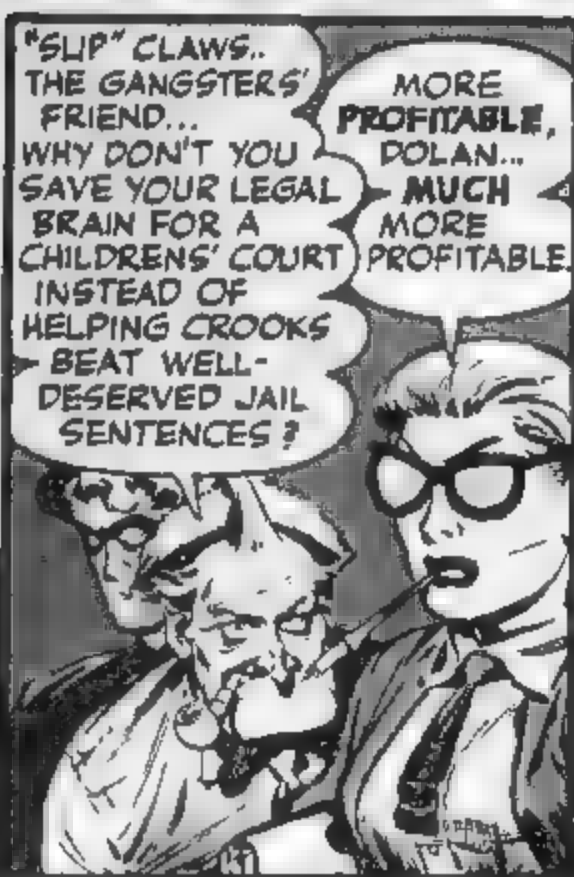
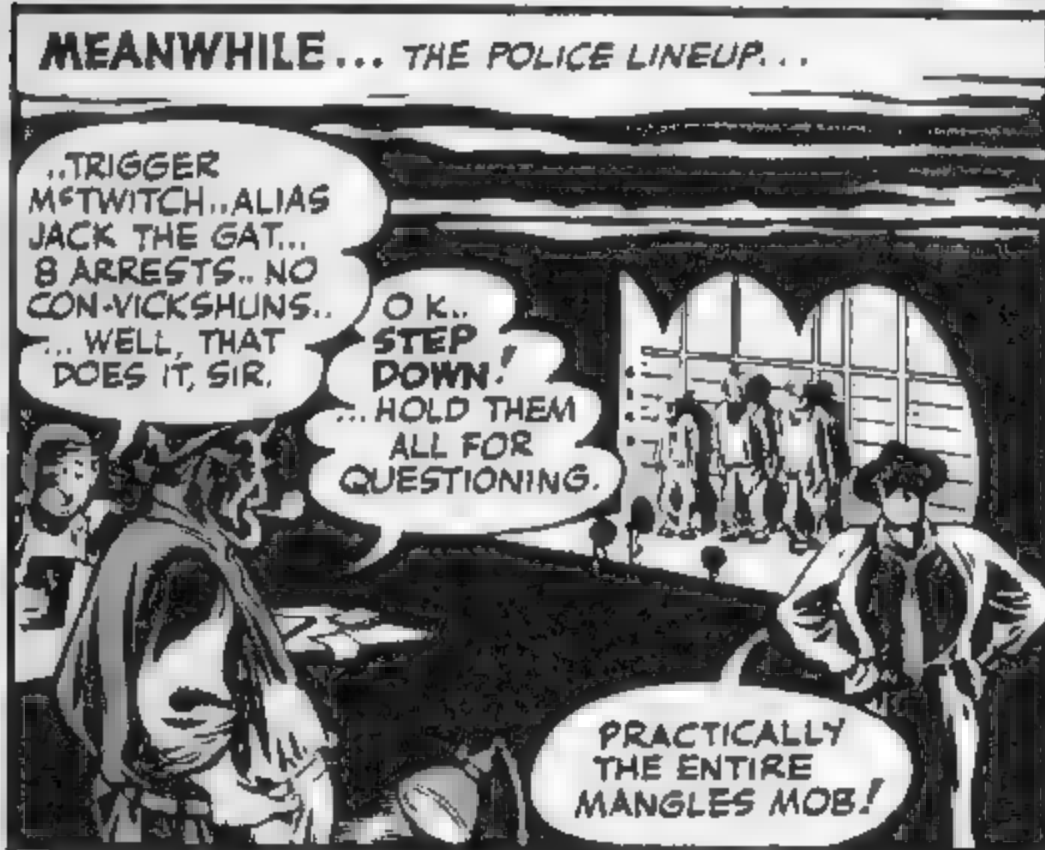
WHAT I  
SAID WAS...

YEAH, YEAH  
..Y' SAID TO  
A GUY,  
"DROP DEAD"  
..AN HE DID!  
YAWWWN...

"YAWWWN" HE SAYS!  
Y-A-W-N!! DOES HE  
REALIZE  
THE IMPLICATIONS  
OF WHAT I AM OR  
MEAN IN THE SCHEME  
OF THINGS?

I AM THE ANSWER TO  
THE ATOMIC BOMB  
!!





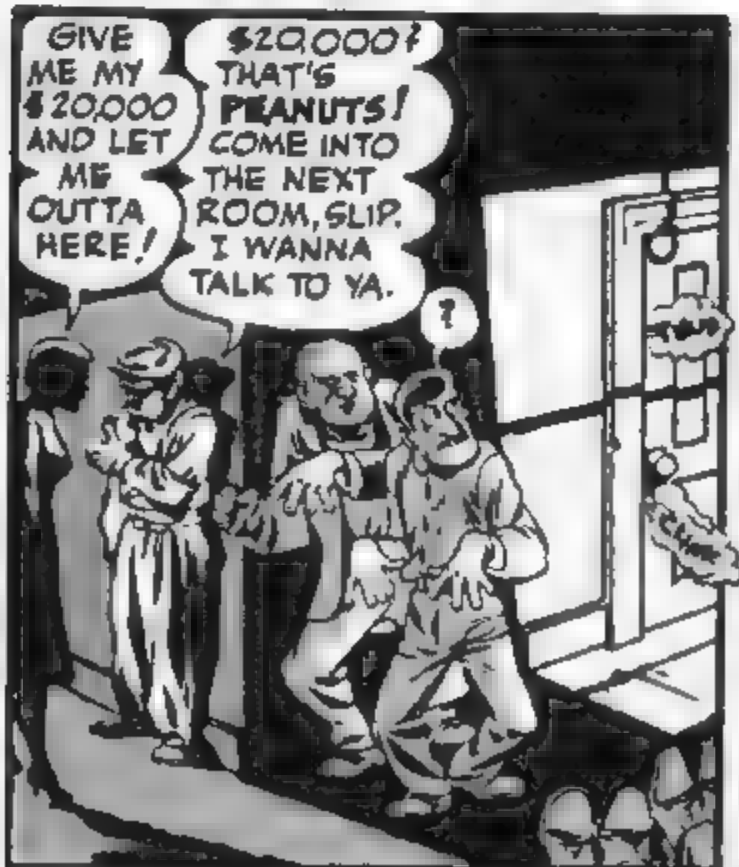
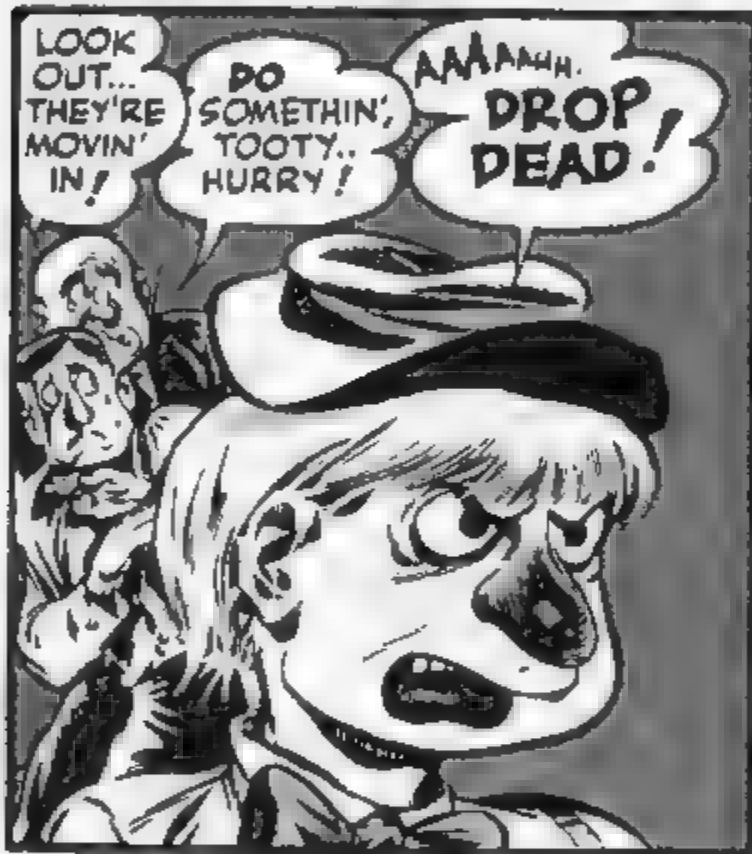
THE NEXT MORNING... A DISHEVELED BUT FAMILIAR FIGURE IS FLUNG INTO A TRANSIENT CELL TO JOIN THE TORPEDOES OF THE MANGLES MOB.



WHATCHA IN FOR, KIDDO?  
 PICKED ME UP DURIN' THE NIGHT... A SECOND-STORY CAPER.  
 DON'T WORRY, PAL... WE GOT A SMART MOUT'PIECE SHE'LL SPRING YA ALONG WID US.  
 SURE... WE C'N USE A NICE HEALTHY GUY LIKE YOU!









IT'S... THE SPIRIT!... HEY... HE'S GOT ALL OUR BANK RECORDS! SHUT THE DOOR SO THE SOUND OF GUNFIRE DON'T...

NO, WAIT... LET TOOTY DO IT!

EXCUSE ME A MOMENT, DOLAN...



OOF

HEY, TOOTY... COME HERE QUICK!



HEY, TOOTY... HALP!

I WANT TO GET PAID FOR MY LEGAL SERVICES.

LISSEN STOP PIDDLING IN THE LAW BUSINESS. YOU'RE ON THE THRESHOLD OF POWER!



HALP... TOOTY HALP!!

WHY.. IN ME YOU SEE ANOTHER GENGHIS KHAN... A MAN WITH SUCH POWERS THAT IN ONE MONTH I COULD RULE HALF THE WORLD! TO RULE, I SHALL NEED A QUEEN. YOU CAN BE MY QUEEN!

MMM... I DON'T KNOW...

OUCH

OOF



WHY, I'M A ONE-MAN ARMY! NOW, IF YOU MARRY ME, OUR CHILDREN WILL FORM A STRIKING COMBAT FORCE OF TERRIBLE POWER!

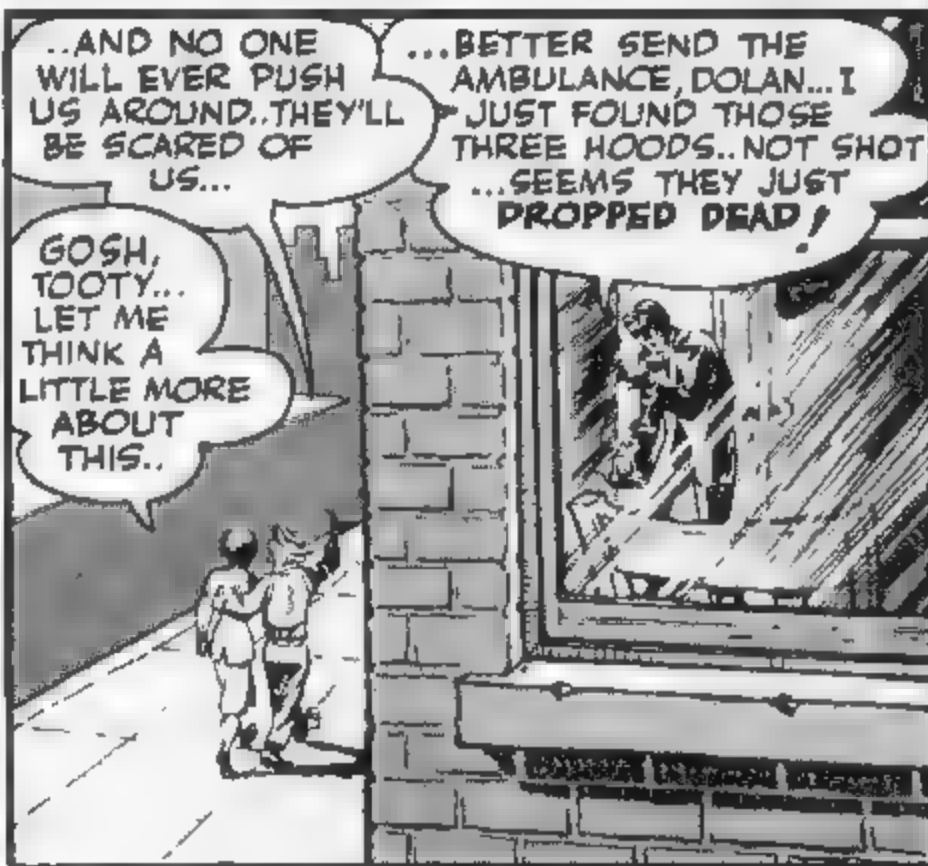
HALP... TOOTY... HE'S BEATIN' ME BRAINS OUT!!

GAD... WHAT A THOUGHT!



WHEWF... NOW, DOLAN... WHERE WERE WE...?

WHY, HONEY... NATIONS'LL BID FOR US... THEY'LL BUILD A OAK RIDGE AROUND US! JUST IMAGINE... YOU AND ME... AN ENTIRE FEDERAL PROJECT!

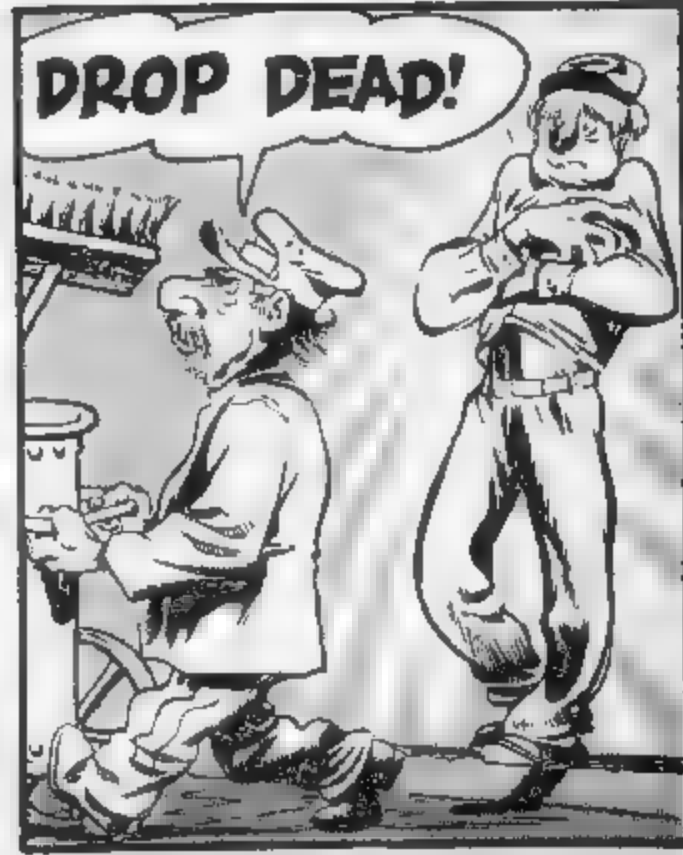
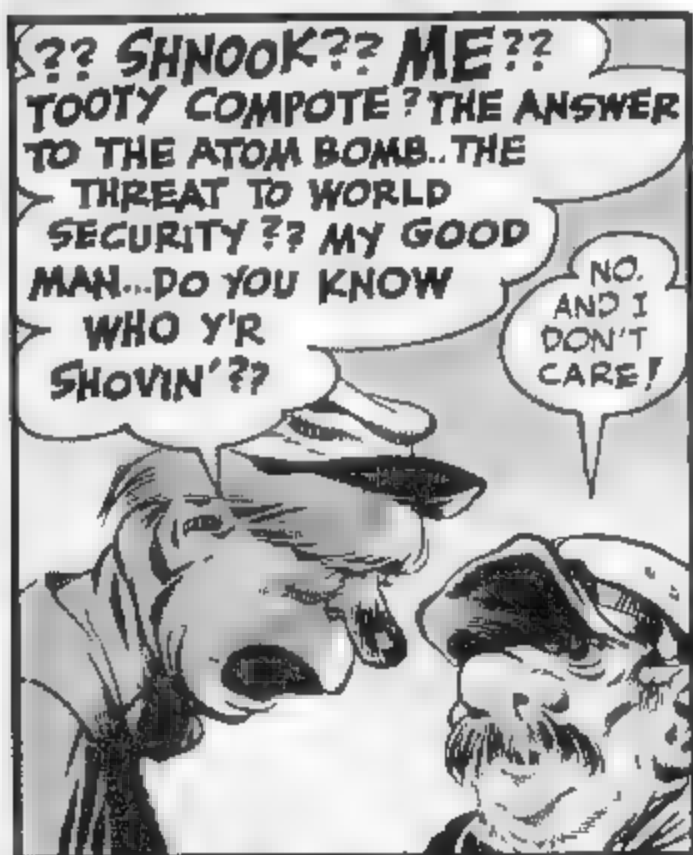
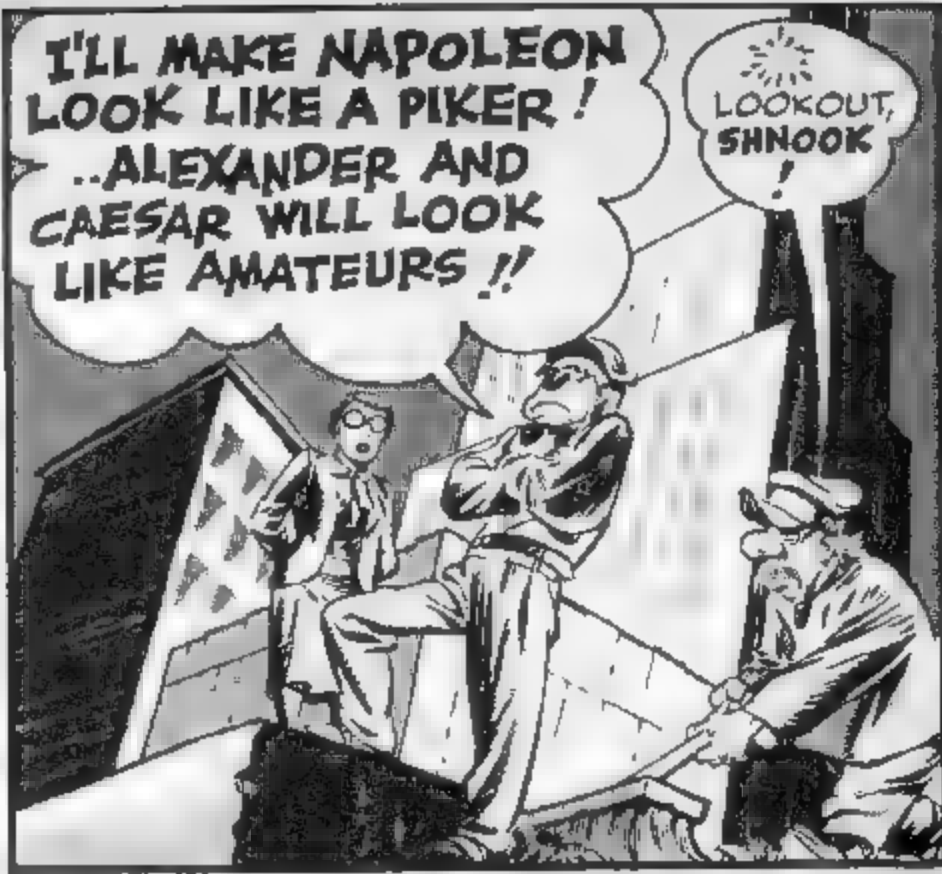


...AND NO ONE WILL EVER PUSH US AROUND... THEY'LL BE SCARED OF US...

GOSH, TOOTY... LET ME THINK A LITTLE MORE ABOUT THIS..

...BETTER SEND THE AMBULANCE, DOLAN... I JUST FOUND THOSE THREE HOODS... NOT SHOT... SEEMS THEY JUST DROPPED DEAD!





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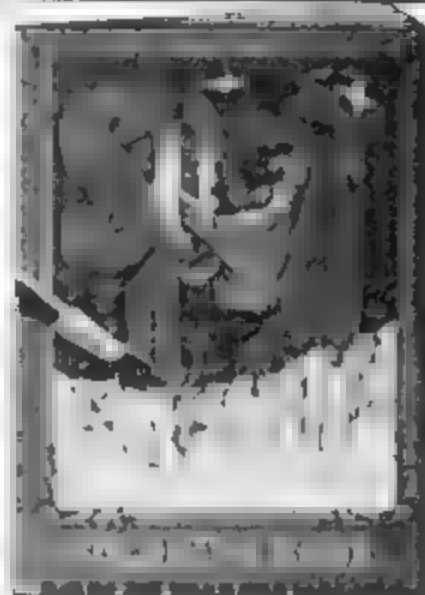
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### THE SPIRIT

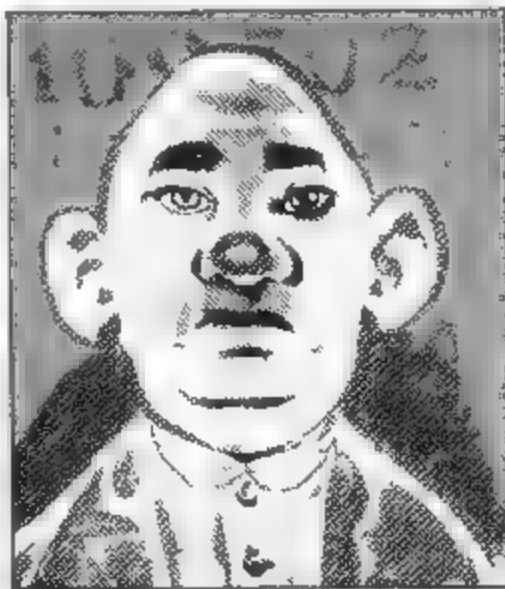
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# BIG ARKY

## ONE OF THE LINKS ROBBERY BANDITS IS STILL AT LARGE

Story on Page 2



Have you seen this man ??  
This is an old Rogues Gallery  
photo. He is known as Big Arky

### Save Water Asks Service Commissar

Citizens of Central City  
are asked to conserve  
of the available  
that is taken  
upstate res  
which has  
all of this  
water

### Last of Robbers Who Stole 2 Million in Cash from Links Co. is still Un

#### DOLAN IS FETED AT DINNER

Comissioner Dolan



YEP,  
DAT'S  
ME!

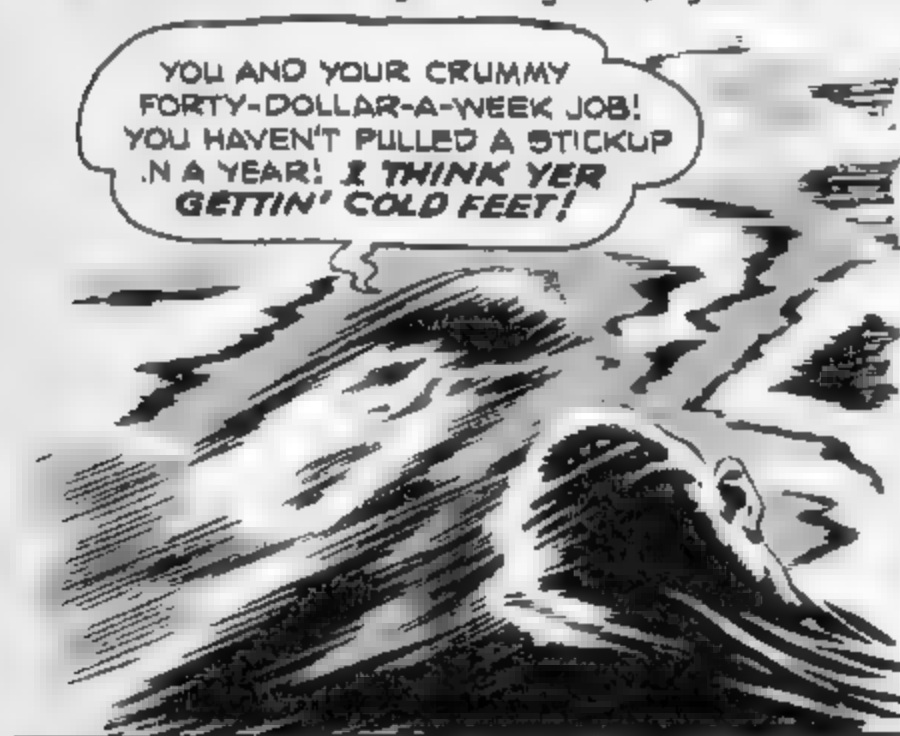
BIG ARKY  
HIMSELF!

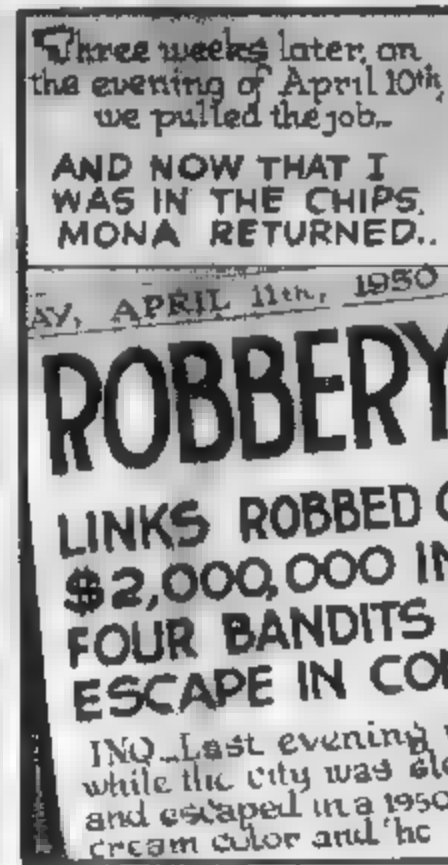
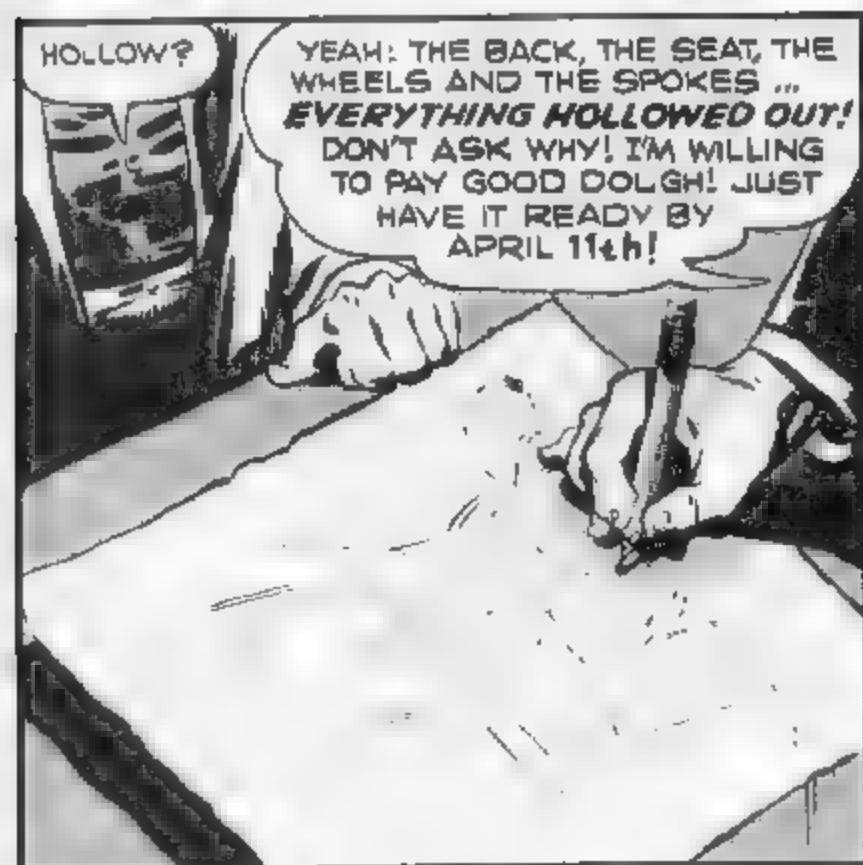
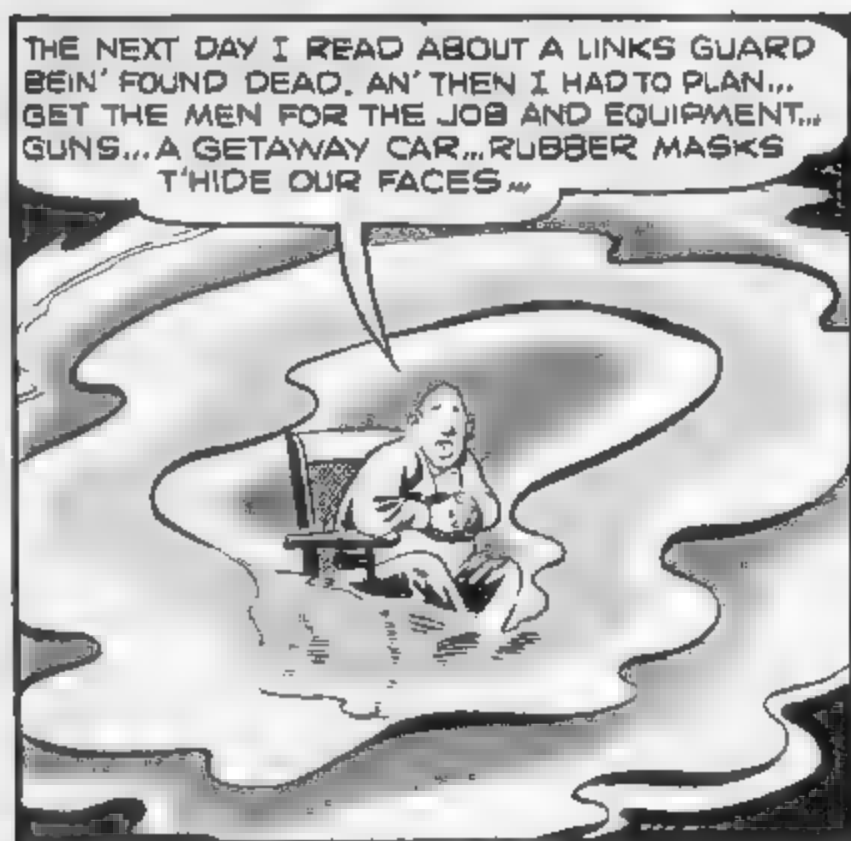


BY  
WILL  
EISNER

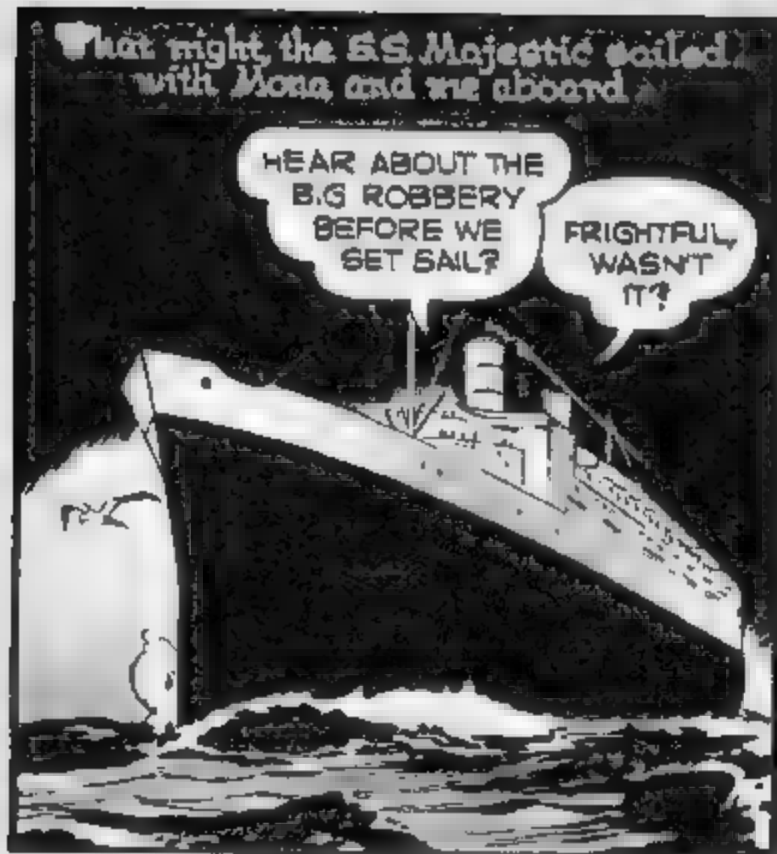


It wuz Mona who got me to pull the job! Back in Central City, she wuz always yakkin' at me!







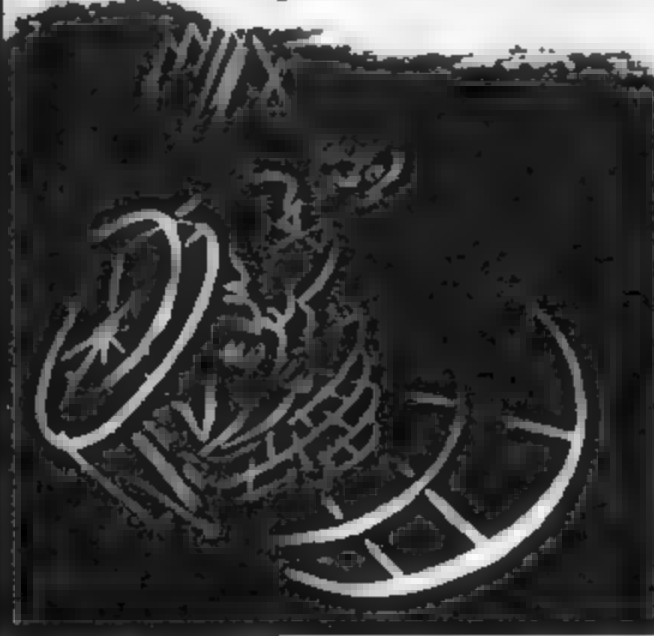




I dreamed I had unstrapped myself from the chair... and my legs was wheels and I was rolling back... and... forth...

And slowly the dream went away..

YOU TRIED T'STEAL MY MONEY! YOU DOPED MY COFFEE AND TRIED A DOUBLECROSS!



WHATYA THINK? I'M NOT GONNA WAIT TILL YOU DECIDE TO GET OUT OF THAT CHAIR AND SPEND THE DOUGH! I WANT IT NOW!

I'LL...GET... OUT OF...THE CHAIR... MONA!

I'LL GET OUT!

GET AWAY, ARKY!

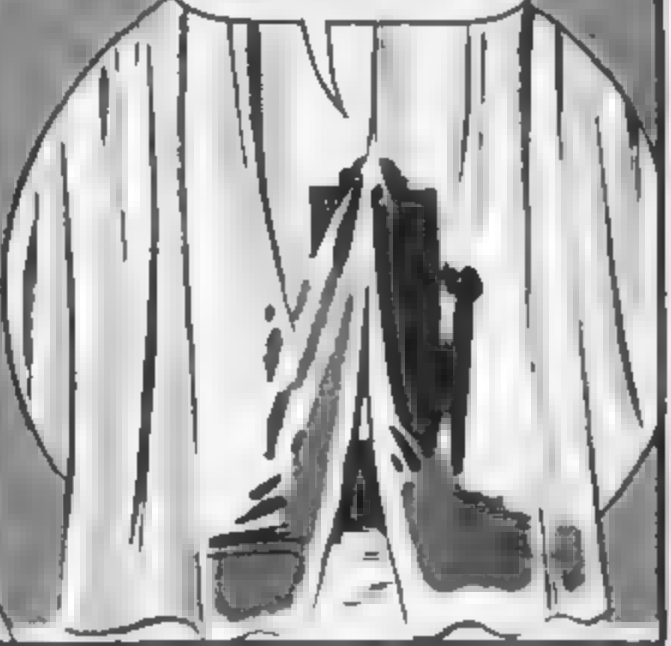
GET AWAY! EEEK!



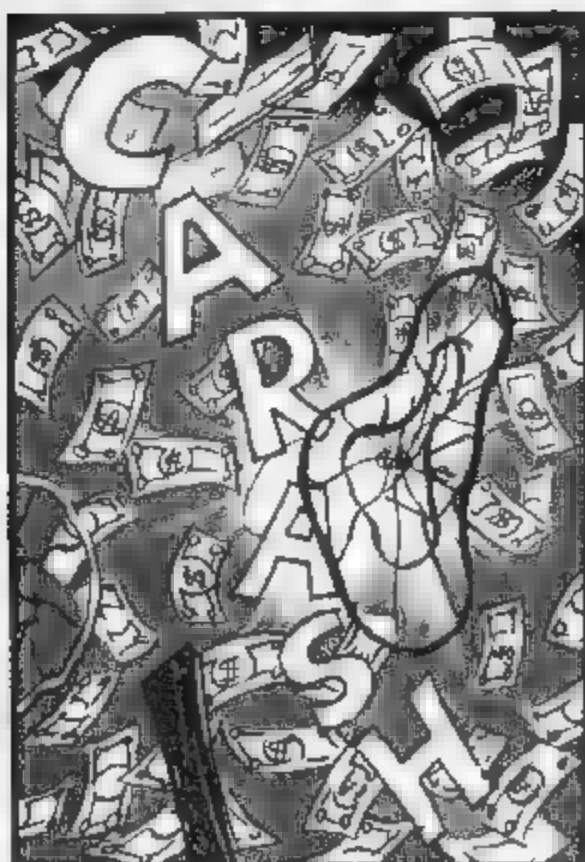
MONA IS DEAD AND THE MONEY IS STILL HERE IN THIS WHEEL-CHAIR THAT I'M BITTIN' IN!

I JUST CALLED THE RAILROAD STATION! THERE'S A TRAIN PULLING OUT FOR THE INLAND IN TWENTY MINUTES! ME AND MY CHAIR...WE'LL BOTH BE ON IT!

I'LL BE GOIN' NOW! THOSE OTHER SUCKERS IN THE ROBBERY...THEY GET CAUGHT! BUT NOT BIG ARKY! NO, SIR, NOT BIG ARKY!







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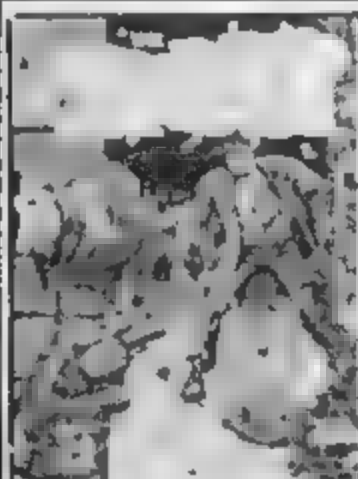
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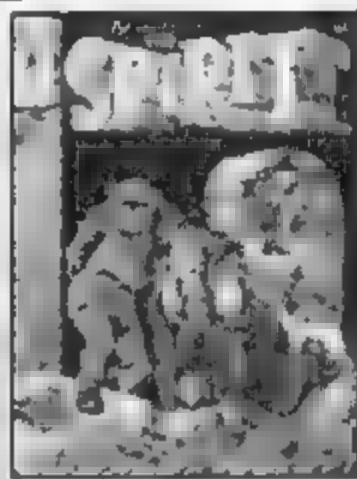
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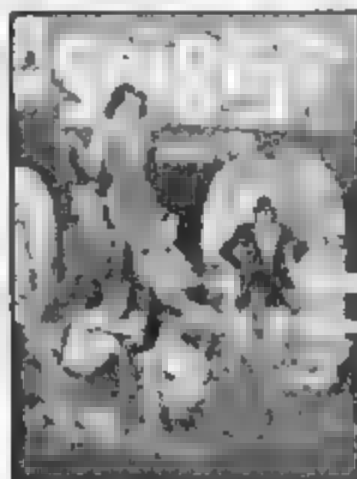
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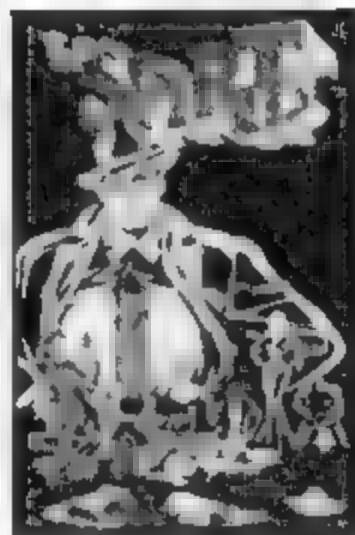
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**SPIRIT BAG #1** June to August 1940 The eerie origin of that graveyard gumshoe THE SPIRIT He meets mugs, ramps a Nazi robot & the Hitler Clown, and downs 'em all with his blunts! Bonus: each story has a special note by Will Eisner reminiscing on the strip's creation. \*2112 SPIRIT BAG #1 \$4.95

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# SPIRIT POSTER

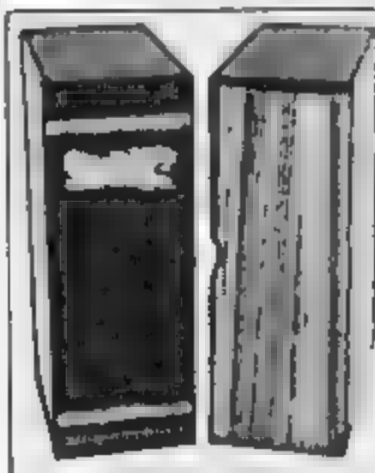
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Basis of Agreement for the Proposed Services and the Services to be Provided

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# The Christmas SPIRIT

a fable

by  
Will Eisner



And  
there was peace

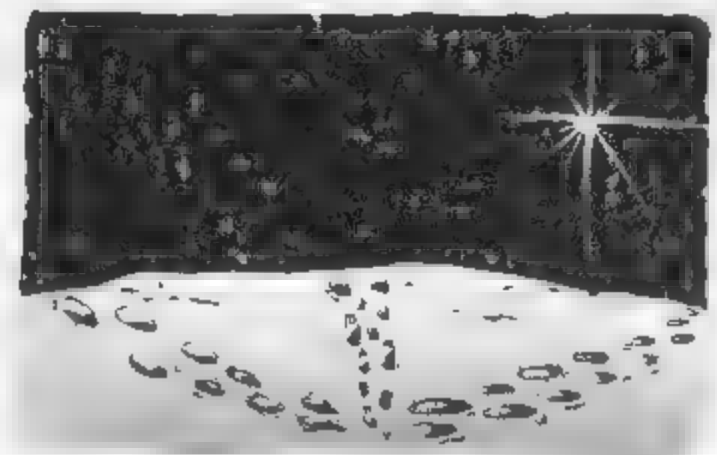
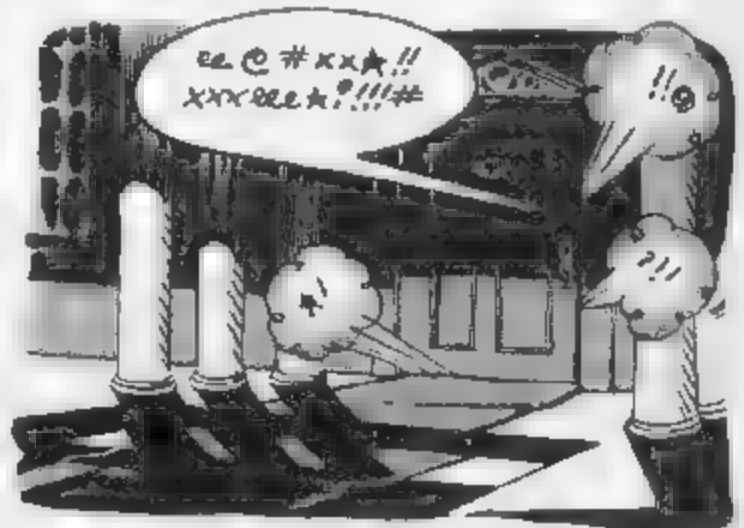
Let the shepherds  
their swords still clasped ....  
And their sheep,  
the people, milled upon the  
bloody plain, not knowing whither  
they would go .....

Then did come from  
the three corners of the land  
three wise men to meet and  
decide upon a new direction...

For the sheep were  
weary and the flock yearned  
for green fields and quiet  
pastures ..... and they were  
sore impatient .....

So on the shores of  
the Atlantic sea they were met...

... And there did confer  
in the manner of men ...





Thus did it come to pass that the three wise men abandoned all hope and sought to return to their native lands . . . . . and the time was Christmas, a season of miracles . . . . .



**Meanwhile—**



BUT, SPIRIT!  
IT'S THE GOOLY  
BROTHERS ON A  
TEAR... THEY'VE  
BEEN ROBBING  
EVERY STORE  
IN CENTRAL  
CITY!

CATCH 'EM YOURSELF,  
DOLAN! MUST I GO  
THROUGH THIS EVERY  
YEAR? ON CHRISTMAS,  
ANOTHER SPIRIT  
FIGHTS CRIME IN  
ITS OWN WAY!!



WELL, IS  
HE COMIN'  
WITH US,  
DOLAN?

NAH!... I SHOULDA KNOWN  
BETTER'N ASKING HIM... HE  
DOES THAT EVERY CHRISTMAS!  
... "THE CHRISTMAS  
SPIRIT'LL CATCH 'EM" HE  
SAYS, HAW!!



MIRACLES IS  
WHAT HE'S  
ASKIN' FER...  
? SNOR?

YEP... AND  
THEY JUST  
DON'T HAPPEN  
IN MODERN  
TIMES!!



WELL... LET'S  
GET DOWN  
T'BUSINESS!  
... Y'KNOW  
WHAT THE  
GOOLYS  
LOOK LIKE?

WELL,  
VAGUELY...  
ONE'S NAMED  
MEATHEAD  
AND THEY BEEN  
HANGIN' AROUND  
THIS DISTRICT!



BRAIN, IS YO'  
GOIN' T'MAKE  
YO' KID BROTHER  
STOP PICKIN' ON  
COPES OR DOES  
YO' WANT US  
TO GET PUT  
IN JAIL?

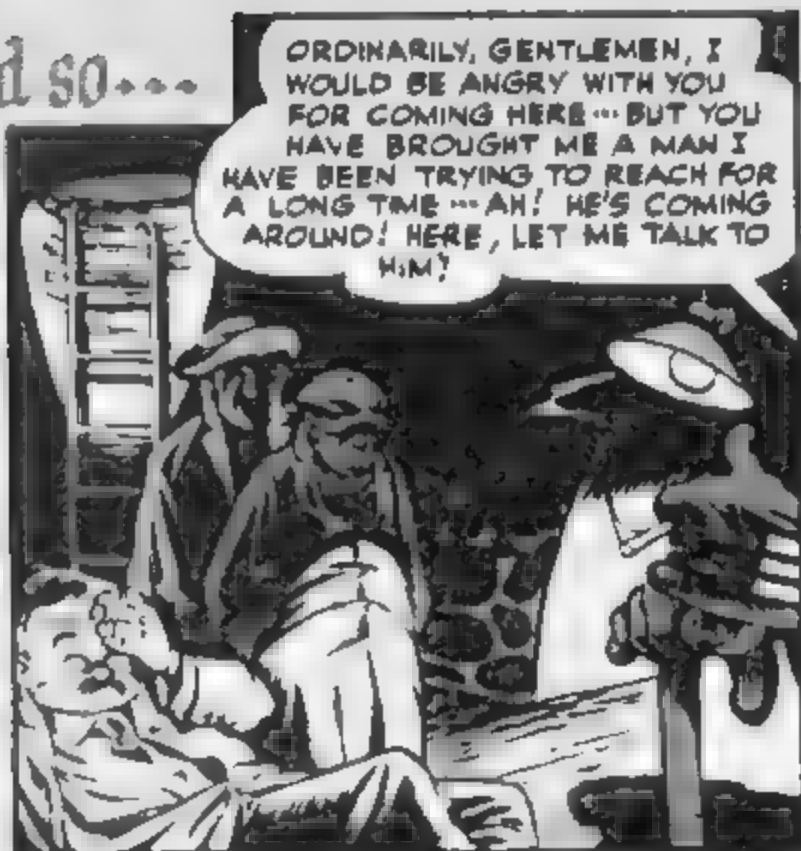
KILROY!!  
YOU CUT  
IT OUT!



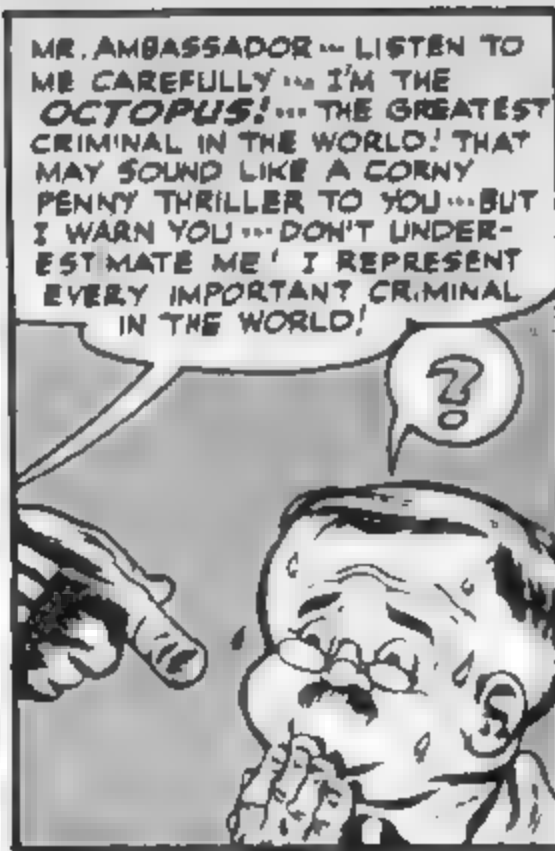
BOY, IT'S A MIRACLE  
WE AIN'T BEEN SEEN  
BY A COP OR SOMETHIN'!  
WHERE TO NOW?... THIS  
GUYS GETTIN' HEAVY!

DOWN THAT MAN-  
HOLE.... WE ARE  
GOING TO SEE  
THE ONE MAN  
WHO CAN COPE  
WITH WHAT WE  
HAVE!

and so...



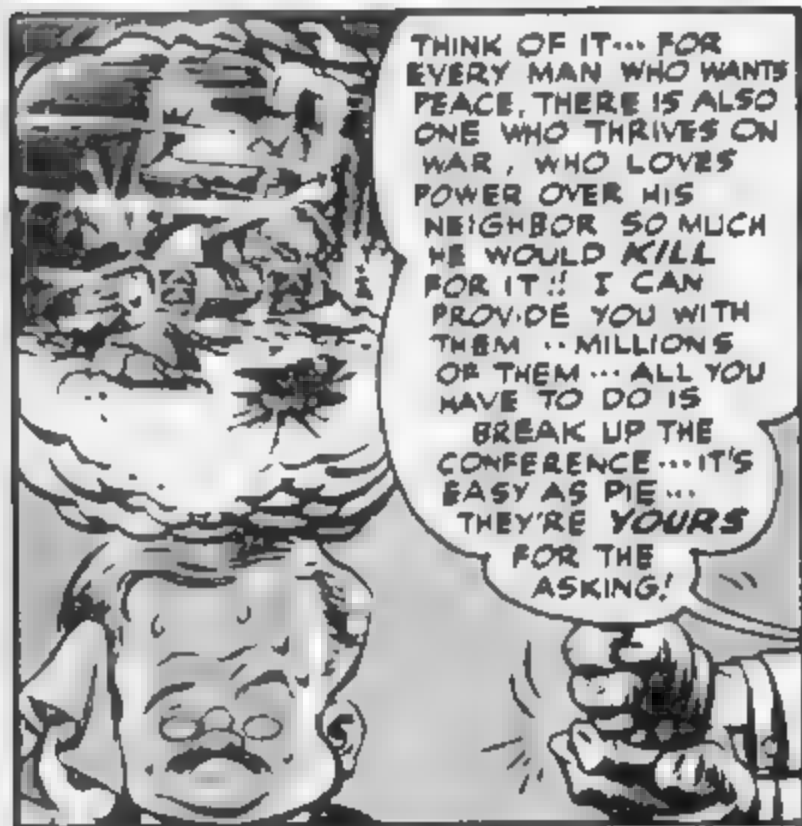
ORDINARILY, GENTLEMEN, I WOULD BE ANGRY WITH YOU FOR COMING HERE... BUT YOU HAVE BROUGHT ME A MAN I HAVE BEEN TRYING TO REACH FOR A LONG TIME... AH! HE'S COMING AROUND! HERE, LET ME TALK TO HIM!



MR. AMBASSADOR... LISTEN TO ME CAREFULLY... I'M THE **OCTOPUS!**... THE GREATEST CRIMINAL IN THE WORLD! THAT MAY SOUND LIKE A CORNY PENNY THRILLER TO YOU... BUT I WARN YOU... DON'T UNDERESTIMATE ME! I REPRESENT EVERY IMPORTANT CRIMINAL IN THE WORLD!



THE RECENT ALLIED VICTORY HAS MOMENTARILY HALTED OUR PLANS, BUT NOW, WITH YOUR OBSTRUCTION OF THE ALLIED CONSOLIDATION WE AGAIN HAVE HOPE... WITH JUST A LITTLE MORE STALLING WE CAN GET STARTED AGAIN!

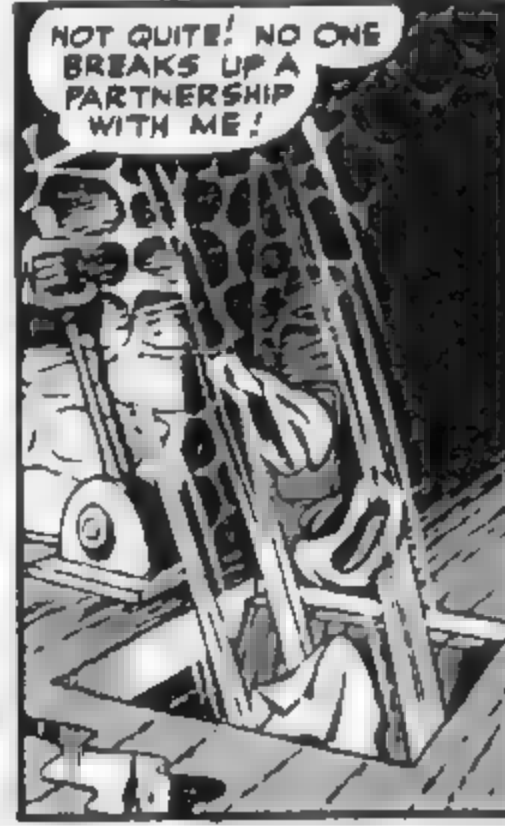


THINK OF IT... FOR EVERY MAN WHO WANTS PEACE, THERE IS ALSO ONE WHO THRIVES ON WAR, WHO LOVES POWER OVER HIS NEIGHBOR SO MUCH HE WOULD KILL FOR IT!! I CAN PROVIDE YOU WITH THEM... MILLIONS OF THEM... ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS BREAK UP THE CONFERENCE... IT'S EASY AS PIE... THEY'RE YOURS FOR THE ASKING!



JUST A MOMENT, YOU TWO... YOU DON'T PLAN TO LEAVE HERE?

SURE! WE DONE YOU A GOOD TURN! NOW WE'RE GOIN'!



NOT QUITE! NO ONE BREAKS UP A PARTNERSHIP WITH ME!



AND NOW, MISTER AMBASSADOR! WE'LL MAKE A DEAL!!... **HEY!! GONE!**... HMM... I WONDER IF I REALLY SOLD HIM... I WONDER IF HE'LL REALLY PLAY BALL...



A MILLION OF OUR SOLDIERS DEAD... WE MUST ANNEX THIS TERRITORY... IT IS IN YOUR HANDS... WITH ONE WORD (NO!!) I CAN PLUNGE THE WORLD INTO ANOTHER WAR!

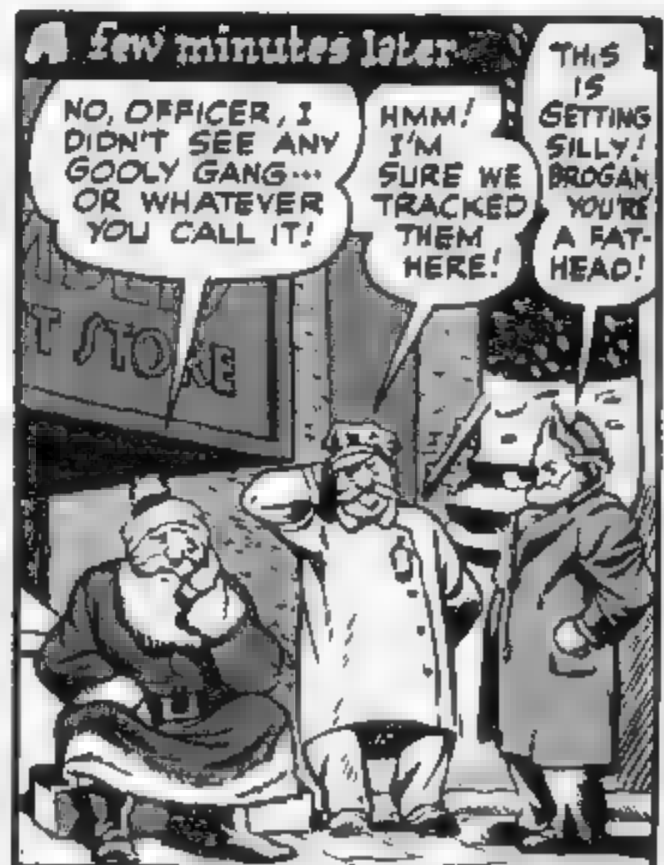
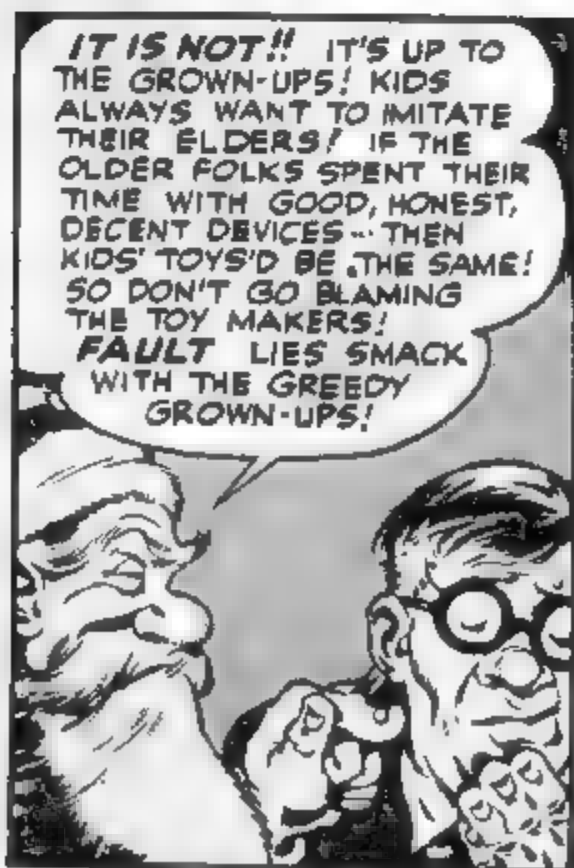


WE WON'T LET YOU WILL, SAY!

ON YEAH! SAY ME!

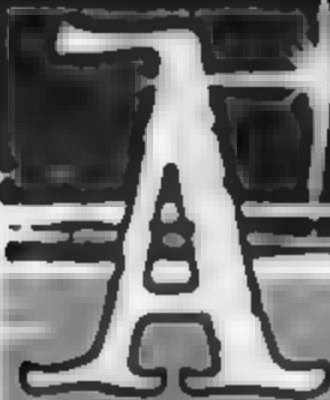


**Meanwhile**



Next day..





And lo, the sheep issued forth upon  
the plains . . . . .

And they waxed fat and prospered . . .

And no longer did man covet his  
neighbor's for there was plenty for all . . .

And the wicked found no sin nor was  
there profit in crime . . . . .

And men had time for learning and  
knew no fear . . . . .

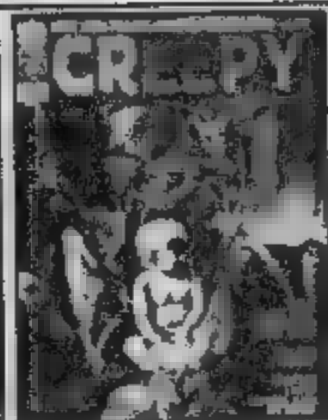
And as generation succeeded  
generation, warfare became as  
medieval as the plague and our wars  
the dark ages . . . . .

And there was Peace on earth,  
Good Will toward men . . . . .





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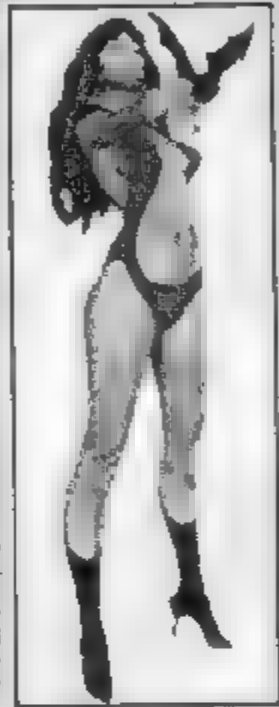
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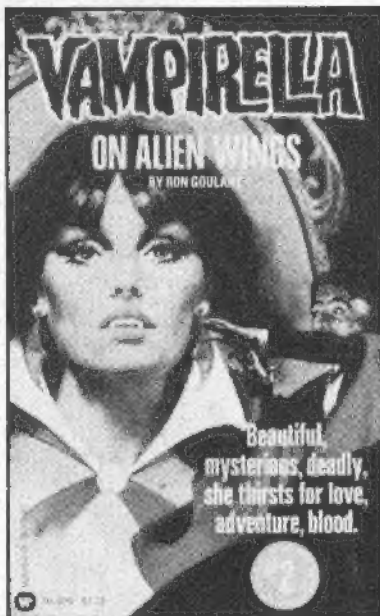


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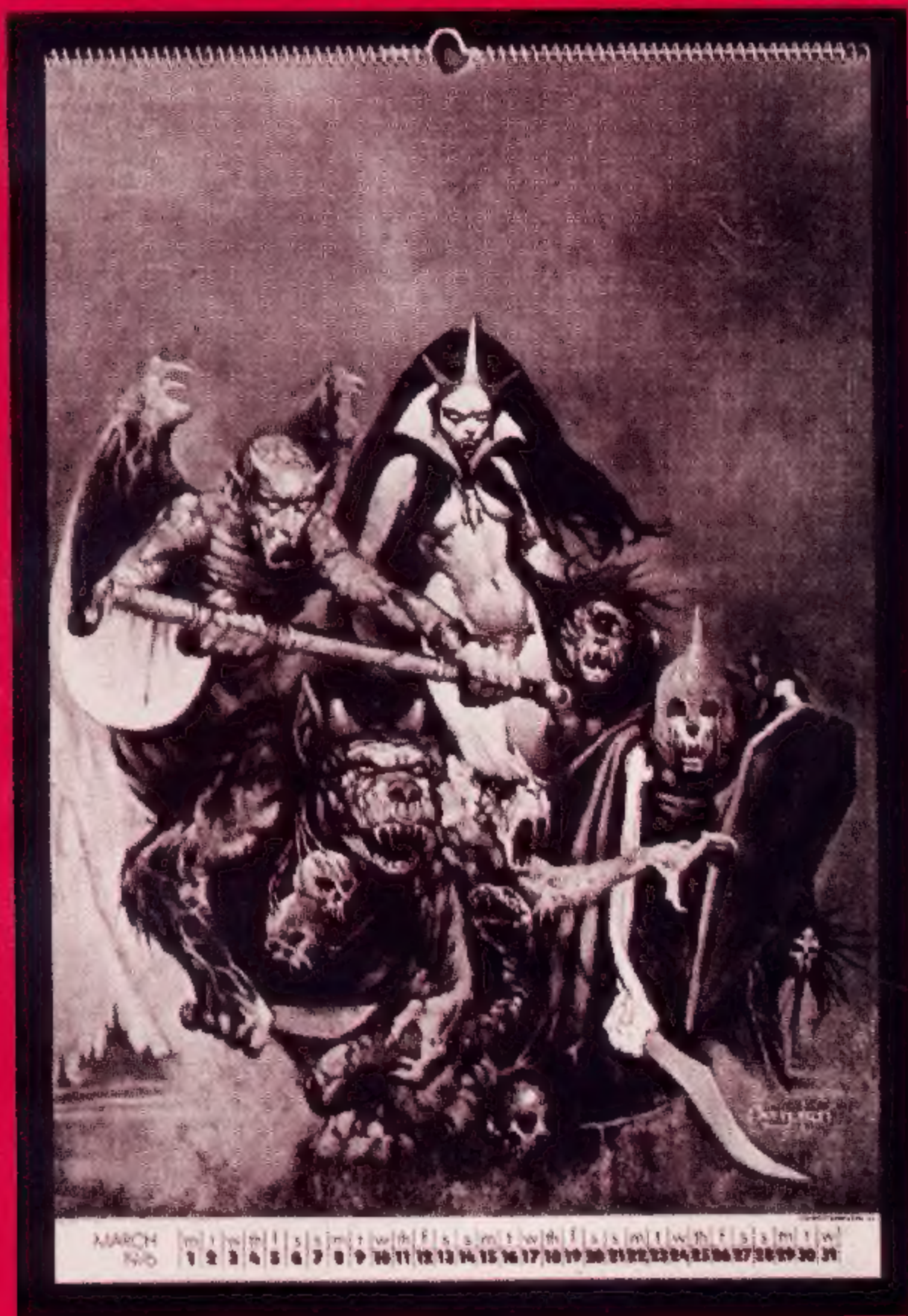
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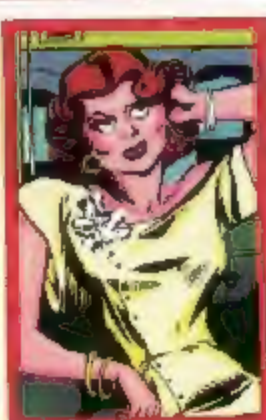
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